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SOCCER

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★★ Special Olympic feature on VSF CEO Geoff Miles page 9 ★★

THOMSON ANSWERS SOS

No luck for Blanco's Men

Australian senior captain Paul Okon became the last in a long list of unavailabilities for the Australian assault on the forthcoming Olympic tournament.

Okon played for 72 minutes against Leeds United in a Premier League match over the weekend with a broken foot.

Okon joins Harry Kewell as two of the biggest losses to the squad.

He will be out of action for at least six weeks and his replacement will be named in the coming days.

Former coach embarks on last minute spying mission

By John Economos

Former Australian World Cup coach Eddie Thomson is ready to race to the Australian Olympic team's hour of need, starting today (Tuesday), with a secret flying mission to Korea.

Raul Blanco, Australia's Olympic coach, whilst battling to prepare a strong and decent team for the coming Games starting in two weeks, has over the past 12 days been bombarded by a staccato of serious setbacks.

Blanco was first hit and shocked when a string of his players suddenly made themselves unavailable for Olympic selection, preferring to abandon the Olympic training camp and chase new careers with European clubs.

Last week, top-line striker Harry Kewell suddenly pulled out of the Australian Olympic team with damaged tendons to his Achilles' heel.

No sooner had the Kewell smoke started to clear, Blanco's ace midfield general Paul Okon dropped out of the Australian squad with a broken bone in his foot whilst playing for Middlesbrough against Leeds United early last Sunday morning (a.e.s.t.).

Still reeling from all the recent 'hits' to his squad, Blanco last night received the only good news he's had for a very long time.

Knowing that Australia's second Olympic opponent Nigeria was playing a friendly match today (Tuesday) against Korea, Blanco phoned his close friend and former Australian Olympic Games and World Cup coach Eddie Thomson, in Japan on Sunday night, for some assistance from that game.

From Melbourne, Blanco stated to ABSW last night: "I phoned Eddie for a favour to see if he could possibly get hold of a tape from the Korea vs Nigeria warm-up game as I wanted to have a look at their final team.

"Knowing all the problems that we have had recently with our Olympic squad, Eddie immediately offered to fly across to Korea on a spying mission and actually watch the game himself and then send me back a full report.

"Just marvellous how in Australia's hour of need Eddie was very quick to offer his very best service.

"Rale Rasic has also come forward and offered to go to Adelaide when Nigeria plays Honduras to keep an eye on both of them for me," ended a most grateful Blanco.

Eddie Thomson: Races to Australia's rescue.

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THE GOOD OIL ... PAGES 4-5

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE The Full Draw PAGE 30

Galatasaray Super Cup Colour Poster

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COSMOS CLEAR ANOTHER HURDLE

By Graham Cooke

Canberra Cosmos surmounted another major hurdle on the road to the 2000-01 National League season when a meeting of creditors on Friday voted agreement on the financial restructuring package put forward by the club.

The vote means creditors will receive only a proportion of the money they are owed - major creditors have already agreed to write off 50 per cent of their debt - and players will receive 100 per cent of their entitlements.

With the vote taken, administrator Henry Kazar ruled the Cosmos is financially able to continue to trade and handed control back to the board of directors.

The event puts the Canberra club in a strong position when they makes their case for continued membership of the NSL, as they can now point to the opinion of Kazar - a totally independent official with a thorough knowledge of the Cosmos' affairs - that they are financially viable.

It is a triumph for chairman Danny Moulis whose first act when taking over seven weeks ago was to put the club into voluntary administration - a risky course which has paid off largely due to the board's efforts to raise money and restore the Cosmos' fortunes in the local community.

Danny Moulis: Amazing success since taking over.

However Moulis said his own joy was tempered with regret that many local business people had lost money in the deal. "We will look at future ex-gratia payments as the situation improves," he said.

He was also not taking Soccer Australia's decision for granted.

"However, we have kept them informed every step of the way, and they approved the course we took," he said.

TALKING WITH MR ED

Well, hasn't our assault on the Olympic title gone sour over the last week. First players making themselves unavailable (as reported in ABSW 22/8) then Harry Kewell - out, and this time having nothing to do with Leeds, and now Paul Okon breaks his foot on the eve of the Games. Throw in the fact that we are in the 'Group of Death' and you have yourself one amazingly tough ask to win a medal.

In saying that, only Australians could muster up the possible courage and spirit to do this like no other nation.

Go Boys! We still have faith.

Speaking of the Olympic Games, there is one man providing a tireless effort down in Melbourne (page 9). VSF CEO Geoff Miles is the unsung Olympic hero...well close to that anyway. He talks to Melbourne Editor Bert van Bedaf.

A few weeks back we kicked off a new section of ABSW following the exploits of our overseas based players entitled "Aussies Around the Globe". Your response has been amazing and Arvind Hickman is doing a great job with it. For this week's edition see page 10.

A lot of you have felt the need to let me know how you have enjoyed the series on the "Greek-Australian Sporting Hall of Fame". (page 11). This week is our last edition of that series as the official event happens this coming weekend and since I was part of the selection committee I feel priveliged to know who all of the inductees already are. A full report in next week's ABSW.

State of Origin does wonders for rugby league but can it happen for Soccer. The Queensland boys seem to think so (page 12). It's state against state, mate against mate this coming weekend.

It seems alot of our readers are great fans of European football, at least I can gage that from the amount of calls and emails I receive pertaining to the Champions league. The qualifiers are over now (pages 26 & 27) and the big guns have been drawn into their respective groups (page 30). Stay tuned for another big season of Champions League coverage.

Finally, congratulations to Galatasaray in winning the European Super Cup against European Champions Real Madrid (centre spread & page 30). What an amazing 12 months it has been for the Turkish side.

- Ed.

ABSW Special 1000th issue in two weeks. DON'T MISS IT!

ABSW PLAYER POLL COMING SOON!

ACT PREMIERSHIP - GRAND FINAL

By Graham Cooke

Belconnen United 1
Gungahlin Juventus 0

Two men who have spent much of their careers as team-mates in the National and NSW leagues, left an indelible mark on the 2000 ACT Premiership grand final - from opposite ends of the pitch.

For Belconnen United's Jason Dunn, the veteran of six grand finals and the scorer of the only goal in his side's 1-0 win over Gungahlin Juventus, the game was a culmination to what may well be his last Premiership appearance.

The same may well be the case for Juventus goalkeeper Anthony Giannasca, on the losing grand final side for the second time in as many seasons, he has been dropping broad hints about retirement.

But not apparently before the pair, who played together for Canberra Cosmos and Canberra Deakin, team up for a final fling in United inaugural NSW summer league campaign.

Thoughts of summer were a long way from a grey and occasionally damp Majura Oval on Sunday as United maintained their record of a cup a season under the stewardship of coach Lino Fiorese, at the same time stopping a Juventus sweep of the Premiership's major trophies.

Belconnen dominated all but a small spell of the game and it was only the superb goalkeeping of Giannasca which kept them from running away with the contest.

The match-within-a-match became apparent early on, when Dunn's header brought a reaction save from Giannasca.

That led to another corner, and again Dunn won the ball in the air, this time sending it wide.

Steve Lazzari, the league's leading scorer and the man on which Juventus have pinned so much of their hopes, finally got a shot in seven minutes before half-time, but Chris Freeman clawed the ball down.

Juventus were lucky to be still on terms at half time and even luckier in the 62nd minute when Marko Perinovic's clever chip over the heads of the defence left Daniel Camara with just Giannasca to beat - not necessarily the easiest of tasks, and Camara hesitated in its execution, allowing the defence to close him down.

Giannasca was equal to a powerful Perinovic header, but was finally conquered by one of those untidy scrambles where the ball refuses to be cleared and players get in each other's way. Again Dunn was the key, having a header blocked, but then collecting the rebound to squeeze the ball home.

With just 13 minutes left Juventus had to be adventurous, equally Belconnen were more than happy to kill the game. The result was a couple of equaliser opportunities: a dipping shot from John Glass that just cleared the crossbar and, deep into stoppage time, a snap header from Lazzari off a free kick by Craig Rankine. Once again, the target was missed.

Marko Perinovic: Excellent match.

Dunn said afterwards it was the goal he really wanted. "We had plenty that went close which were struck far better, but the ball dribbled in and that was all that mattered," he said.

"Tony made some fantastic saves - he is still the best goalkeeper in Canberra.

"My future is with Belconnen. When I went to the club five years ago I said I wanted to play in the NSW League with them. We are there now, and I will be with them this summer."

Fiorese said the team had been rewarded for their patience. "We created a lot of opportunities, the ball did not go in for a long time, but we kept working at it," he said.

"At the end of the day this game will be remembered for the saves by both goalkeepers, but we were just that little more desperate for a win.

"It's the result we needed to set us up for the NSW competition - and I hope that when the final squad is announced, we will have a few of the Juventus lads with us - including Tony Giannasca."

Belconnen United brought off a grand-final double, beating the University of Canberra 2-0 in the Under-23 Division. Lee Rupil scored both goals.

Juventus gained some consolation by winning in the youth division, 3-2 over Canberra Deakin.

ACT STATE LEAGUE GRAND FINALS RESULTED:

Division 1: ANU 1 White Eagles 0.
Division 2: ANU 0 Burns Club 0 (ANU won 3-0 on penalties).
Division 3: Ginninderra 0 Belwest 3.
Division 4: Canberra City 0 ANU 2.
Division 5: Weston Creek Royals 0 Harmonie 1.
Division 6: Canberra Olympic 2 ANU 0
Masters Division preliminary final: University of Canberra 4 Canberra Deakin 2.

Blanco's mystery replacement

By John Economos

Who will coach Raul Blanco select to replace the irreplaceable Paul Okon in the Australian Olympic team?

That has been Blanco's latest, and by far the biggest, dilemma that has plagued him since the early hours of Sunday morning.

Blanco could not believe his streak of luck when the news reached him in Melbourne early

Raul Blanco: Australia's Olympic Games coach.

Sunday morning that his star playmaker Okon had broken a bone in his foot whilst playing for Middelsbrough against Leeds United.

"How does one replace a player such as Paul? " lamented Blanco from Melbourne to ABSW last night.

"I will not rush into a decision and quickly just pull in any player for a quick solution to our great problem.

"In the first instance when we heard of Paul's tragic injury, our minds quickly first turned over the weekend as to what FIFA's ruling would be regarding a late replacement of an 'Over age' (23) player with another 'Over age' player.

"We had last week already submitted our final list of 18 squad players.

"We finally found the relevant article in the regulations, and it appears that we are okay to go ahead and call in an 'Over age' replacement.

"But we all wanted it confirmed by FIFA first," a cautious Blanco conveyed.

Now the second part of the problem is, (and still most difficult) who will Blanco draft in to fill Okon's place?

The superbly talented Okon could play a dual role, either playmaker or sweeper.

The tough left-sided Danny Tiatto with Manchester City unlikely or the mobile Steve Corica with Wolves in England could be considered but have positional limitations.

Gambling on re-approaching

Josip Skoko: Based in Belgium with Genk.

Munich 1860's Ned Zelic, who very easily could fill both positions, is in reality a dead-issue.

Zelic himself has declared he'd never again play for any Australian national team after clashing with national coach Frank Farina.

That leaves Blanco with two other candidates, both who are Euro based and fully experienced .

Josip Simunic based in Germany with Hertha Berlin or Josip Skoko, now in Belgium with Genk, could be Blanco's choice.

Both players can easily slot in at central midfield or free-back.

But there is yet one other player that has never been mentioned as an option.

He's tall, can mark, has swept and above all, has been a midfield playmaker in his younger days.

Does the name Tony Popovic based in Japan with Hiroshima, ring a bell?

No matter who Blanco and his assistant coach Adrian Santrac decide on as Okon's replacement over the next 48 hours, be assured they will both first make very, very, sure that the player, is fully fit and will be immediately released by his club to come to Australia.

Blanco and Santrac do not want

Tony Popovic: Based in Japan with Hiroshima.

any further delayed dramas at this stage in announcing the name of the replacement to the media, only to find just hours later that there is going to be a problem for yet one more time.

Breakers on last legs

By Greg Danvers

The prospect of the Newcastle Breakers, as such, playing in the 2000-01 NSL season looks remote.

Last week the Breakers players closed ranks and gave the club until close of trade yesterday (Monday) to pay outstanding superannuation and entitlements.

Failure by Breakers management to meet the demands of the players, which they have all intention of following up, will see the players becoming free agents.

Those free agents are prepared to commit to the Con Constantine backed Northern NSW Soccer Federation contingency plan to takeover the Newcastle NSL licence for the coming season.

Time has all but run out for the Newcastle Breakers to come up with the funds to not only pay the player entitlements but the outstanding debts of the club and guarantees to Soccer Australia for the coming season.

"We will be forcing the issue," Newcastle Breakers captain Shane Pryce said yesterday.

"That is the intent of the players in serving the letter of demand on the club.

"Where it goes from there is purely in the hands of Soccer Australia and the players association.

"At the moment they haven't made a decision; they're waiting to see if Tiebeau can come up with the means to meet the criteria for entry into the National League.

'The main issue for the players is to be ready to play NSL whether or not it's for Tiebeau or the new consortium is a matter out of our hands.

"Our main job is to play soccer and all the politics and that that happens outside we've got no say in."

The Professional Football Association (PFA) said they would force the issue over payments.

"The club is well aware of its obligations in regards to outstanding player payments," PFA chief executive officer Brandan Schwab said.

"The club is doing everything in its power to meet them.

'The players are concerned that the club has not met those payments.

"Not merely because they are entitlements of the players but because with the difficulties pertaining to the ownership of the club we have concerns of the ongoing viability of the club.

"We have also been meeting with Soccer Australia and impressing upon them the need to make an urgent decision regarding Newcastle's participation in the NSL to ensure that decision is made only if Newcastle Breakers meets the criteria regarding solvency and other matters.

"The decision needs to be made (by Soccer Australia) quickly because there is a safety net put forward by the Northern NSW Soccer Federation whilst the possibility of that being can't really be looked at until a definite decision is made against Breakers.

"If a decision is not quickly made then the viability of both entities is compromised."

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The Good Oil ... The Good Oil ...

By John Economos

BUDDY FARAH, Marconi's tough young utility defender or mid-fielder, has been drafted in as one of Raul Blanco's 'standby' players to replace upgraded striker, Clayton Zane.

Clayton Zane: In the Olympic squad for the injured Kewell.

The fiery Farah was most disappointed last Friday week, (also the day he turned 22 years old), when coach Raul Blanco left Buddy out when he announced his Olympic squad of 18 plus four 'alternates'.

But now Farah is very happy with his 'belated birthday present'.

The lanky goalscoring, now Norway based Zane, who last year displayed magnificent form against the touring Brazilian Youth side, comes into Australia's Olympic squad of 18 to replace injured striker Harry Kewell.

●●●●

LAST SUNDAY at the Rugby League Grand Final between Eastern Suburbs and the Brisbane Broncos at Sydney's Olympic Stadium in Homebush, Soccer made a brief, but very vivid impact to the crowd of almost 95,000.

Nick Politis: Eastern Suburbs' 'Godfather'.

Was it a 'boo boo' by the NRL's marketing people?

Four minutes before kick-off, a well-known domestic airline flashed its new commercial across the Stadium's huge video screens.

In marketing the airline, the commercial screened showed a little six-year-old kid shooting a Soccer ball at one of the airline's ground staff members inside the boarding lounge at an airport.

The kid's shot was spectacular.

It was a smashing right-footer with a full instep.

The power-laidened, lifting drive, forced the adult male ground staff to hurl himself fully stretched to his right, to make a magnificent 'Mark Bosnich' save.

Easily the best, action-packed commercial screened at this year's Rugby League Grand Final.

And it was about SOCCER.

Was it a 'boo boo' by the marketing people, or was it in defiance that the NRL has nothing to fear from Soccer?

There's no truth in the rumour that Easts' 'Godfather' Nick Politis is seeking the kid to offer him a contract to play for Sydney Olympic.

●●●●

IT SEEMS Australia's Olympic coach Raul Blanco must have 'killed a Chinaman' over the past 12 months.

No national coach on the planet has been slammed by such a consistent barrage of obstacles as Blanco prepares for the very near Olympics.

Paul Okon: A huge loss to Australia's Olympic team.

At every single training camp Blanco has organised over the past 12 months, he's been hit by a variety of his players either being unable to attend because of pressures emanating from their Euro clubs, or others flying out of Australia to chase trials with Euro clubs.

Then as a 'bonus', his Australian Olympic team was drawn in the 'Group Of Death' to face no less than three champions (Italy-current European Champions, Nigeria-current Gold Medal holders and Honduras-champions of CONCACAF).

Just when one thought things couldn't possibly get any worse for him, late last week Blanco was hit by the news that his Leeds United striker Harry Kewell had to withdraw from the Olympic squad due to damaged tendons in his Achilles heel.

Just great.

But there was yet another cyclonic storm to hit Blanco.

Last Sunday morning to severely compound Blanco's problems, he lost his star playmaker and captain of Australia's senior team, Paul Okon.

The Middlesbrough mid-fielder withdrew from the Australian Olympic team after having sustained a broken bone in his foot whilst playing, (ironically) against Leeds United would you believe.

Okon immediately underwent surgery yesterday (Monday) in Middlesbrough.

The loss of Okon's direction and power-play from Australia's midfield for the Olympics, is by far the most serious and most expensive to hit Blanco.

●●●●

THE 'JOE WATSON FOUNDATION' functions which transpired over the past two weeks, are coming to an end. The unrelenting work and planning done by the chief organisers, mainly Joe Watson's former Sydney City team-mates and former internationals, Alex Robertson and Tony Pezzano, plus Blacktown City's duo Ken Schembri and Brian Brown, must be hugely commended.

The 47-year-old Watson, as most are very much aware of by now, has tragically been struck down by cancer that has attacked his liver. Hugely expensive medical and hospital bills have rapidly accumulated daily.

In the second last function staged for Joe, last Saturday night almost 600 of Joe's friends attended a hugely successful fund-raising Dinner for Joe Watson at Club Marconi.

Alex Robertson: Fund raising engineer.

Special guest for the evening was leading Sydney surgeon Professor David Morris who with a large team of doctors, operated on Joe almost three weeks ago. The extremely difficult operation, the very first of its kind performed in Australia, lasted almost 22 hours.

The former Australian World Cup little right winger Joe Watson still very much remains in a critical condition.

Former Sydney City's Soccer manager David Childs, with former Sydney City and Australian captain John Kosmina, specially flew down from Brisbane for the Dinner at Club Marconi.

The always all-action David Childs, jumped on stage, ripped off his coat and plunged into a highly energised performance acting as autioneer for the night.

David's most spirited and energetic work with razor vision and the microphone, ignited fierce bidding for the 26 odd items, (mostly Soccer) that had been put up for sale.

Tony Pezzano: Fund raising engineer.

Some of the most valuable items that went onder the hammer included a pair of Mark Bosnich's goalkeeper's gloves, a special edition of Mark Taylor's 'Puma 334' cricket bat, a most prestigious framed portait of current Australian cricket captain, Steve Waugh, two magnificent Greg Norman autographed photos plus two VIP passes to the 'Greg Norman Holden Classic' to be played in Sydney next February plus a Gabriel Batistuta autographed Fiorentina Soccer shirt.

●●●●

TOP PRICE paid last Saturday night at the 'Joe Watson Dinner Auction' was 'scored' by Club Marconi's Director, Bruno Viler.

Mr Viler relentlessly chased against spirited bidding, the prestigious Steve Waugh coloured portait, determined to have it and hang up in the Directors' Boardroom lounge.

The cavalier batting Bruno finally slammed a solid 'cover-driven' bid of $2,000 that promptly cleared the 'bidding floor' to 'hit the fence'.

Mr Bruno Viler: Club Marconi Director hits Waugh for Six.

●●●●

STILL ON A JOE WATSON NIGHT.

At another function staged to raise funds for Joe Watson, almost 500 Scotsmen turned up at the Coogee RSL the previous week.

Kenny Wilson: Former Rangers' player Top Scores.

Following some hysterical bidding, a Celtic shirt climbed to $3,500.

But when a Rangers' shirt came up for sale, the former sweeper of Sydney Olympic, and himself a former Rangers' Youth striker, Kenny Wilson, drove the price to a rocketing $5,000.

"I couldn't just sit back and let the Celtic lads top score for the night. Could I just?", the always laughing Wilson stated to 'Good Oil'.

●●●●

THE SEVEN NETWORK for the coming Olympics in a joint venture with Telstra, will provide the most 'closed captioning' ever seen on Australian television that will benefit no less than some 1.7 million Australians.

'Closed captioning' will be produced on all its Olympic free-to-air coverage.

On-line 'Closed captioning' is the provision of subtitles, Live to air for the benefit of the hearing impaired community with access to Super text.

Live captioning is an extraordinary logistical challenge and the Seven Network has established its own 'captioning centres' in Perth, Sydney and Brisbane.

●●●●

THE WOLLONGONG WOLVES recently, came to the aid of the Westpac Life Saving Helicopters at a small function.

During the fund-raising auction, a team-autographed Wollongong Wolves' jersey ignited fierce bidding.

In the end, a new Company in the Illawarra district known as TJF-EBC, emerged as victorious with a lofty final bid of $7,000.

●●●●

BRAZIL's OLYMPIC coach, Wanderley Luxemburgo who as this column wrote last week, (and truthful to his word), refused to select a single Over 23-year-old player when he finally released his official squad.

When the Brazilian Olympic squad did come out, it included the three 'top guns', (all Under 23), that had previously toured Australia last year for the two matches against Raul Blanco's Australia.

Ronaldinho, Mozart and Alex will spearhead Brazil's serious assault for Olympic Gold.

Brazil is in Group D with Slovakia, Japan and South Africa and will be based in Brisbane for the Games next month.

So what's new, one may ask?

As soon as Luxemburgo had released his squad, the fiery and dynamic former World Cup striker, Romario, strongly challenged the coach to include him in the Olympic squad.

So what's the big deal?

The big deal is very simply this.

Romario, who had a huge and colourful reputation with the Brazilian senior squad right across the planet, still possesses the powerful burning desire to play in the coming Olympics.

Yet some of our very own Australian players, (and ALL with a far much lower profile than that of Romario's), had over the past 12 days declared themselves unavailable to play for Australia at the coming Olympics.

Why?

Something is most radically wrong with the 'professional' attitude of many of our young, and still 'unproven' on international arenas, Australian players.

●●●●

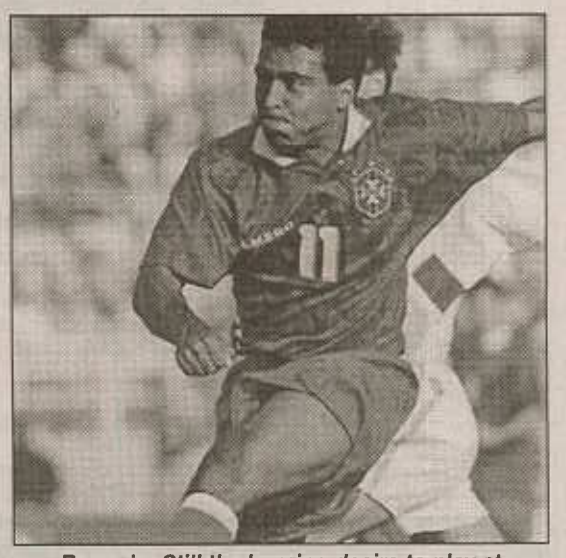
SYDNEY OLYMPIC on Sunday September 17th, will play a charity match against Canterbury Marrickville at Lambert Park on Marion Street, Leichhardt, to raise urgently needed funds for a 16-year-old athlete that earlier this year suffered a serious injury.

The young Novocastrian gymnast, whilst at training last April, fell awkwardly in coming off the 'bars' and most unfortunately suffered a very serious injury that has left the teenager as a paraplegic.

Tony Raciti: Leichhardt Tigers' president to the rescue.

With all available grounds right now out-of-action, (either through undergoing re-turfing or booked out by SOCOG as training venues for the Olympics), NSW's Premier League side the Leichhardt Tigers, graciously came to Sydney Olympic's rescue.

Despite Lambert Park, (as well, being under repairs), upon hearing Olympic's plight that they couldn't secure an available ground for this match, the Leichhardt Tigers' considerate President, Mr Tony Raciti quickly came forward and offered his Club's Lambert Park.



Romario: Still the burning desire to play at the Olympics.

The Good Oil ...

By John Economos

Again, the match Olympic vs Canterbury Marrickville will be played Sunday, September 17th, at 4.pm.

Please make the effort to BE THERE.

●●●●

JAMES STUBBS-MILLS, the Leichhardt Tigers' midfielder who this season took out the 'Coach Player Of The Year' in the NSW Super League, is the latest young Aussie player to head to France seeking a professional contract.

He is currently on a three week trial with First division side F.C. Metz.

Another Leichhardt Tigers' midfielder, Yane Talcevski, is currently also in France, trailing with R.C. Lens.

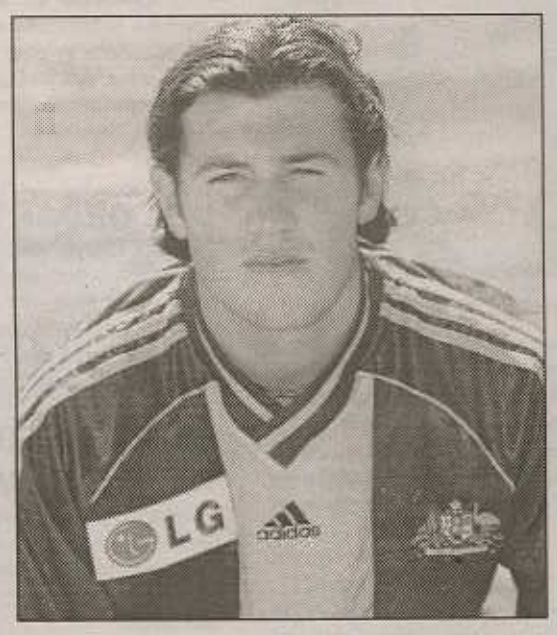
James-Stubbs Mills: Young Tiger in France.

●●●●

ANOTHER six Euro-based Australian players have joined Raul Blanco in the Australian Olympic squad's training base in Melbourne.

Goalkeeper Joe Didulica, defender Lucal Neill and midfielder Jason Culina flew into Melbourne last weekend.

Today, (Tuesday), Australia's Olympic captain and blockbusting right midfielder Brett Emerton, goalscoring defender Steve Laybutt and West Ham's sweeper Hayden Foxe are expected to arrive in Melbourne.



Brett Emerton: Australia's Olympic skipper arrives in Melbourne today.

Australia's first Olympic battle is on Wednesday September 13th at the M.C.G. against the newly crowned European Champions, Italy.

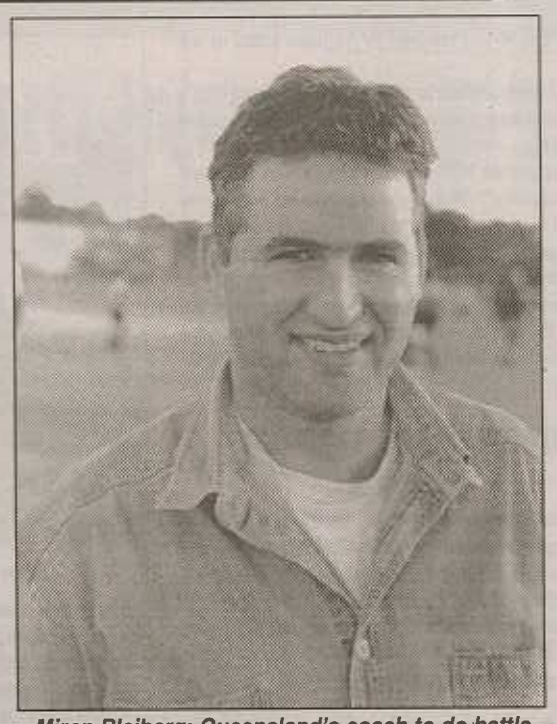
●●●●

WYNTON RUFER, New Zealand's former World Cup striker extraordinaire, has announced that this coming season will definitely be his last in the NSL.

The Co-coach/player of the Auckland Kingz, despite being 37 years of age, scored some incredible goals in the Kingz' inaugural season in the NSL.

Wynton Rufer: Finally calling it a day from playing.

●●●●



Miron Bleiberg: Queensland's coach to do battle with NSW this Sunday.

MIRON BLEIBERG, Queensland's coach, is preparing his State squad for the coming battle with NSW this Sunday.

As a warm-up, Bleiberg will play his State team in a friendly tomorrow night, (Wednesday), against John Kosmina's NSL side the Brisbane Strikers.

The exhibition game starts at 8.30pm at Perry Park.

The curtain raiser is the Ansett Cup final between northern semi-pro rivals, Pine Rivers and North Star starting at 6.30 pm.

Queensland will then clash with NSW this Sunday at 3 pm, also at Perry Park.

As Queensland's captain, Bleiberg has selected Taringa's midfielder, Craig Collins.

●●●●

FRANCIS AWARITEFE, the unwanted striker at Marconi, last Saturday afternoon spearheaded his new club Sydney United to a 2-0 win over Sydney Olympic.

Francis Awaritefe: Still much fire left in 36-year-old body.

Playing an exhibition match at Marconi Stadium for the 'Joe Watson Foundation', not only did the towering 36-year-old gangling striker give a fiery performance, but he scored BOTH goals to boot.

●●●●

GRAHAM ARNOLD, the Northern Spirit's Head coach, in the earlier exhibition match on the same day at Marconi Stadium, played for Australia against Scotland in the 'Over 35's battle.

Graham Arnold: Scored a double against Scotland.

Australia won 3-0 with Arnold nailing in two whilst former Apia international winger, Terry ('Tex') Butler scored the other.

●●●●

SYDNEY UNITED has signed sweeper Richard Plesa, centre-back Danny Burt, mobile wide midfielder Danny Townsend plus fiery veteran striker, Francis Awaritefe.

Former Sydney Olympic's lanky 31-year-old striker Zlatko Armabasic has also been snapped up by newly appointed coach, Alan Hunter.

Richard Plesa: Back at Sydney United.

Sportsgear manufacturer LOTTO will be the Club's official supplier-sponsor of playing strips.

United this season will be captained by midfielder, Aytec Genc.

●●●●

Leichhardt Tigers Soccer Club Inc.

Trials for Cadets, Super Youth League, & (Under 19s & 1st Grade by Invitation only)

Cadets

Venue: Leichhardt Oval No.2 Glover St, Leichhardt

Under 11		Under 12	
Saturday 30th September	1.00pm	Sunday 1st October	3.00pm
Saturday 7th October	1.00pm	Sunday 8th October	3.00pm
Saturday 14th October	1.00pm	Sunday 15th October	3.00pm
Saturday 21st October	1.00pm	Sunday 22nd October	3.00pm

Super Youth League

Venue: Leichhardt Oval No.2 Glover St, Leichhardt

Under 13			
Monday 25th September	6.00pm	Saturday 30th September	9.00am
Monday 2nd October	6.00pm	Saturday 7th October	9.00am
Monday 9th October	6.00pm	Saturday 14th October	9.00am
Monday 16th October	6.00pm	Saturday 21st October	9.00am
Under 14			
Tuesday 26th September	6.00pm	Saturday 30th September	11.00am
Tuesday 3rd October	6.00pm	Saturday 7th October	11.00am
Tuesday 10th October	6.00pm	Saturday 14th October	11.00am
Tuesday 17th October	6.00pm	Saturday 21st October	11.00am
Under 15			
Thursday 28th September	6.00pm	Sunday 1st October	9.00am
Thursday 5th October	6.00pm	Sunday 8th October	9.00am
Thursday 12th October	6.00pm	Sunday 15th October	9.00am
Thursday 19th October	6.00pm	Sunday 22nd October	9.00am
Under 17			
Friday 29th September	6.00pm	Sunday 1st October	11.00am
Friday 6th October	6.00pm	Sunday 8th October	11.00am
Friday 13th October	6.00pm	Sunday 15th October	11.00am
Friday 20th October	6.00pm	Sunday 22nd October	11.00am

FOR ALL ENQUIRIES PLEASE PHONE LEICHHARDT TIGERS INFO LINES 9560 5414 (Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm) or Mobile: 0402 306 666

EASTERN SUBURBS WANDERERS

2001 SOCCER TRIALS

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE & CADET LEAGUE

At Jellicoe Park, Park Ave, Pagewood

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE (U13, U14, U15 and U17)

Sunday 3rd September
10.00am Under 14 & Under 15
12.00noon Under 13 & Under 17

Saturday 9th September
10.00am Under 14
12.00noon Under 13 & Under 17
2.00pm Under 15

CADETS (Under 11 and Under 12)
Sunday 3rd September 9.00am
Saturday 9th September 2.00pm

RYDE CITY SOCCER CLUB

Invites suitable applications with minimum Intermediate Level Certificate for the 2001 season for the following coaching positions:

Youth League — Division 1
U13's, U14's, U15's and U16's

Cadet League — Division 1
U11's and U12's

Note: Assistant coaches may also apply.
All applications should be addressed to:-

The Secretary
Ryde City Soccer Club
PO Box 391,
North Ryde NSW 1670
Or Fax 9887 1324

Trials for Cadet and Youth League to be held on
Sunday 8th, 15th, 22nd October, 2000

For further information contact Youth Director Warwick Andrews. Phone 9899 4004 (after hours)

BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES SPORTS CLUB LTD

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE

Conducting trials for the Under 19 players for the Summer competition.

The trials will be conducted at
Cabramatta Sports Ground
Begonia Ave, Cabramatta,
On the following dates:
Wednesday 6, Friday 8, Sunday 10, Monday 11, Wednesday 13, Friday 15, Sunday 17
September 2000

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
The Club's Secretary
Jack Cirjanic
☎ (02) 9823 7714

OFF THE CROSSBAR

FORCEFUL ITALIAN INVASION

Italians Walter Dondoni and Fabrizio Bucciarelli have arrived on the Adelaide City Force doorstep armed with impressive credentials and hoping to represent South Australia's sole NSL club next season.

Club president Bob D'Ottavi captured the professional defenders during a 10-week club business trip to his country of birth.

But the man who will decide if either, or both Dondoni and Bucciarelli wear the vertical black and white stripes of the State's most successful soccer club, is coach Zoran Matic.

This is as it should be. Long serving Matic has not seen either man play and - true to his custom - will monitor the pair at training and in trial games before seeking signatures.

And Matic, the consumate perfectionist, will determine if the newcomers are able to adjust to City's method of play and the Australian lifestyle.

As far as treble NSL championship winning supremo is concerned, reputations count for little.

One feels the same strict procedure would be adopted if a lad named Ronaldo wandered into the Force clubrooms.

Matic has been guilty of the odd error of judgement when assessing players in past seasons, but, on that score, he has more credits than debits against his name.

Housed on the same aircraft winging its way from Rome to little old Adelaide last Wednesday, was last season's scoring sensation, Claudio Pelosi, whose friend and Force colleague of the previous season, Gianluca Lagati had returned to Australia ahead of the others.

Should Matic decide to sign the latest players, City's list of Italian-born players would zoom to four in season 2000-2001.

"But, is not the NSL quota of visa players restricted to three imports?" That is the question we hear being muttered! Yes, that's right, but the Force is banking on one of those imports being classed as a guest player.

Again surmising that the latest intake is accepted, the Force would have a skyscraper defence, arguably the tallest in the league with the newcomers, Dondoni and Bucciarelli and Melbourne Knights signing Ante Kovacevic all well in excess of the 182cm mark.

IMPORTANT IMPORT FACTS

Walter Dondoni: Age: 33. Position: Defender. Began career at Inter Milan (Serie A) in 1985/86. Other clubs: Parma, Perugia and Lecce. Made his Italian league debut at age 18.

Fabrizio Bucciarelli: Age: 33. Position: Defender (Has played in all back four spots).

Other clubs: Napoli, Palermo (1990-2000).

MONEY MATTERS

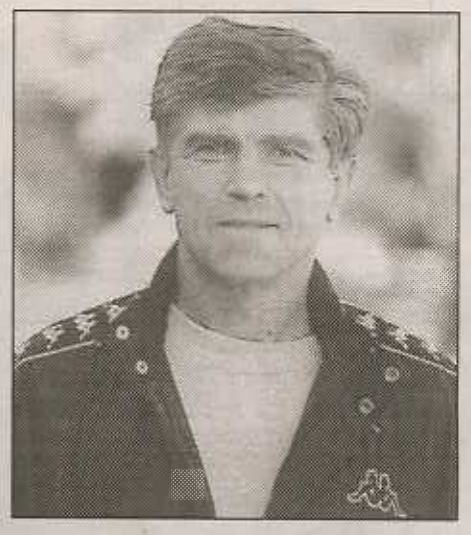
On the matter of money, there can be no doubt that it does matter. Ask Adelaide City Force!

The auditor's report presented to members at the club's AGM last Sunday, disclosed an operating loss of $648,816 in the past financial year.

In his summary, auditor Natale Rugari cast doubts on the club's long-term viabilty, considering that president Bob D'Ottavi's company, Best Bricks and Pavers, had guaranteed an overdraft limit of $310,000.

The auditor reported that coach Zoran Matic is owed $45,000 for the 1999-2000 NSL season.

The auditor also highlighted perceived deficiencies in the club's internal control systems in organisation, accounting, property, purchase and payments, stocks and cash receipts.



Zoran Matic: The final say.

The report claimed that the management lacked strategic direction, including appropriately documented policies, plans and forecasts, such as forward budgets and cash flow projections.

However, D'Ottavi presented a brave front on his return from Italy, issuing confident predictions that the financial position of his club was about to change for the better.

"We will recover the money we lost last year. "It's not the first time we've lost that amount of money."

City's money woes have been compounded by the loss of star players, Alex Tobin, Damian Mori and Angelo Costanzo and lesser lights, but good performers, Dong Ki Kim (Eastern Pride) and Michael Cartwright (Auckland Kingz).

Another player-departure, Matthew Kemp, becomes a good news story with the 20-year-old bringing a probable $200,000 transfer fee from Italian Serie C club, Spal.

D'Ottavi's dealings have ensured that his club would retain a 50 per cent ownership of Kemp, so that the Force would be able to claim a flow-on fee from any future transfer.

And, president Bob is firm in his belief that his visit to Italy should pay off in a big way within the next fortnight when he hopes to reveal a sponsorship which could involve several Italian companies which have export dealings with Australia.

READY TO ROLL

The Force is determined not to repeat the tardy start of last season by programming a tough series of training games against Carlton (Tomorrow night at Marden Sports Complex, 8pm), and against Perth Glory on Saturday, September 2, from 2.30pm at the same venue).

DEPARTURES

Ex-Under 16 international Ian Fyfe is training with Glasgow Celtic, while fellow Joey, Aaron Westervelt is trialling with Eastern Pride, along with Dong Ki Kim and John Fusco.

Meanwhile, Aaron Goulding, another former Joey is trying out with South Melbourne.

JUNIORS TO RESCUE RAMS?

It may sound a trifle fanciful, but the Elizabeth and Districts Junior Association may emerge as the body to save the financially troubled Elizabeth City Soccer Club.

Stay tuned!

Allan Crisp can be heard on the 5RPH (1197) Breakfast Soccer Show each Tuesday from 7.30am-9am, along with former Australian international John Perin, Channel 10 presenter Robbie Popplestone and Australian and British Soccer Weekly editor Vince Battiato.

WOLLONGONG NEWS

By Otto Bader

Expectations, Prospects, Anticipation — the local fans are discussing among themselves what to look forward to when the Wolves start their challenge for another title.

Generally the appointment of new coach Ron Corry and assistant Stuart Beedie has been received and accepted without much questioning while disappointed with the departure of Nick Theodorakopoulos which was more or less due to personal reasons and the supporters are satisfied that the Wollongong club did everything possible to keep him in the job.

Things have settled down and it is now a matter of hard arduous training, positive approach and developing further on the success of the NSL championship achieved last season.

Nobody is kidding themselves that it will be too much to ask of a new coach coming in to follow the same road of top honours. On the other hand the club has the nucleus of last season's playing staff signed up and one would be entitled to look forward to another good year. The fans are certainly behind coach Ron Corry and will turn up in numbers, hopefully even increased numbers at the new playing venue, the WIN Stadium.

Work is going on at present to replace the playing surface and widen the field, plenty of activity promises a top quality ground surface for the beginning of the competition in October.

Coach and players seemed to have embraced the new home ground. At least the floodlights are much better suited for television coverage. Games are at this stage scheduled for Saturday evenings, hoping to attract families with young fans, able to relax on Sunday without worrying about going to work or others intending to spend a night on the town after the match.

The strategy looks attractive and a bit of thought has gone into the planning. On the business front the Wolves are in need of strong support in financial terms from the local community to survive and being able to provide a quality product — a winning team.

■■■■

Addition to Coaching staff — the Wolves announced the appointment of Eddie Tosoro as the new coach of the youth team. Even though virtually unknown in Wollongong, he brings experience in coaching with him having been active with the Stanmore Hawks in Sydney.

Tosoro played professionally overseas as well NSL and State League soccer where he was coached by Australian coach Raul Blanco.

He had a successful stint with the Wolves U/16 team lifting the side into second position on the table.

He will be watched with interest by the fans who always fancy talent in the youth squad.

■■■■

Wollongong Toyota Starlets — had their annual awards night. Best & Fairest went to Rebeckah Lucas, Most Improved to Jenny Shelton, Player of the Year was named Corrina Zivkovic.

The U/21 team named as Best & Fairest Kerryn Thirtle, Most Improved Natalie Srbinovski. Player of the Year for the U/16 team was named Mandy Roskell and Most Consistent Award went to Kristen Lec.

■■■■

Wolves Talent overseas — Wolves junior Jay Lucas, 15 has been offered a professional contract with English Premier League club Southampton for a one year scholarship followed by a year apprenticeship.

He will have more trials with Coventry and Middlesbrough before returning to Australia to play with the Wolves youth team. He needs to be over 16 years before he takes up an offer of professional soccer.

■■■■

Illawarra Soccer — in the ICU Premier League the semi-finals saw interesting contests. Competition leaders Port Kembla won 2-1 over Wollongong Olympic to march straight into the Grand Final. Two superb goals by former Wolves player Mineo Bonetig guaranteed success.

Coach Adrian Alston — a former Australian international and team member of the 1974 World Cup side — was more than satisfied with his players. They have achieved much in the last years.

The team won 13 matches out of 22, drew 6 and lost only three times, scoring 43 goals with 19 against.

Even their Reserve Grade won on the day and advanced to the play-off final against West to aim for a place in the Grand Final. In the second contest Western Suburbs defeated Coniston by 3-0 and looked sharp with goals from Frank Barila, Shane McGirr and Neil Harlock, on loan from the Wolves after an injury affected season.

In the ICU First Division major semi-finals Helensburgh in a real cliff hanger won against competition winner Picton Rangers in extra-time under the golden-goal rule and reached the Grand Final.

In the second match Balgownie Rangers also in extra-time overpowered Dapto 2-1 after falling behind and looking out of it, coming back to equalise in the final seconds of normal playing time and then scoring the golden goal also in the last seconds of extra-time.

In Youth Grade Lysaghts was successful in a penalty shoot-out against Shoalhaven City and West won 1-0 against Tarrawanna. The second Reserve Grade game was won by Wollongong Olympic by 3-1 over West.

■■■■

Threatened Retirement — at a recent general club meeting long-time soccer official and past well respected referee Barry Scott, acting on the judiciary committee for the last six years, indicated his intention to retire.

It is hard to imagine Barry not attending any more soccer games in an official capacity. Any club would welcome him to join their committee anytime. Barry's late brother Tom Scott was also involved in soccer as a top level referee acting in many finals and semi-finals of all competitions.

■■■■

Successful Juniors — the South Coast has always been regarded as a great nursery for soccer talent. This year saw Thirroul's U/10s soccer team going through the season undefeated and qualified for the Champion of Champions tournament.

An outstanding tiny soccer player Dapto's U/7 Matthew Birkin scored an amazing 16 goals in one match, in total he reached 110 goals in two seasons.

Further South Oak Flats U/14's report their own success story with coach Mark Vinton — a past top level player — winning the championship with 17 wins and only one loss, scoring 48 goals, conceding only 12.

Another fine team are the Wollongong Wolves U/14s making second spot in Super League and the Illawarra Lions U/14s reaching top place in the State League.

The local juniors are entering their own finals, semi-finals and Grand Finals this weekend.

■■■■

PENRITH PANTHERS SOCCER CLUB

THE NEW ELITE PREMIER LEAGUE SOCCER TRIALS

U/19s & 1st Grade

Sunday 3rd, 10th September
Super Cadets (U11s/U12s)
Super Youth (U13s to U17s)
Sunday 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th

OCTOBER 2000

KINGSWOOD PARK
First & Second Ave, Kingswood
(9.00am-6.00pm)
Please Contact
Director of Coaching: Stan Ackerley
0409 304 900
Club President: Alan Perkins
0403 249 673

Penrith Panthers is a member of the Parramatta Power Centre of Excellence Program

Panthers POWER

Eastern Flies Regional Flag with Pride

By Bert van Bedaf

If Olympic excitement won't divert attention from national league clubs, distance certainly will do it for Eastern Pride, formerly known as Gippsland Falcons. How do you fight the old saying, "Out of sight, out of mind?"

Based in Morwell, in Victoria's depressed LaTrobe valley, roughly about 120km east of Melbourne, the Falcons have reinvented themselves as Eastern Pride in a major revamp to attract much needed support.

When Pride's chief executive officer Peter Quirk announced the new name and set-up for the struggling club last July, he ushered in a new approach in a determined bid to maintain a local presence in the national soccer league.

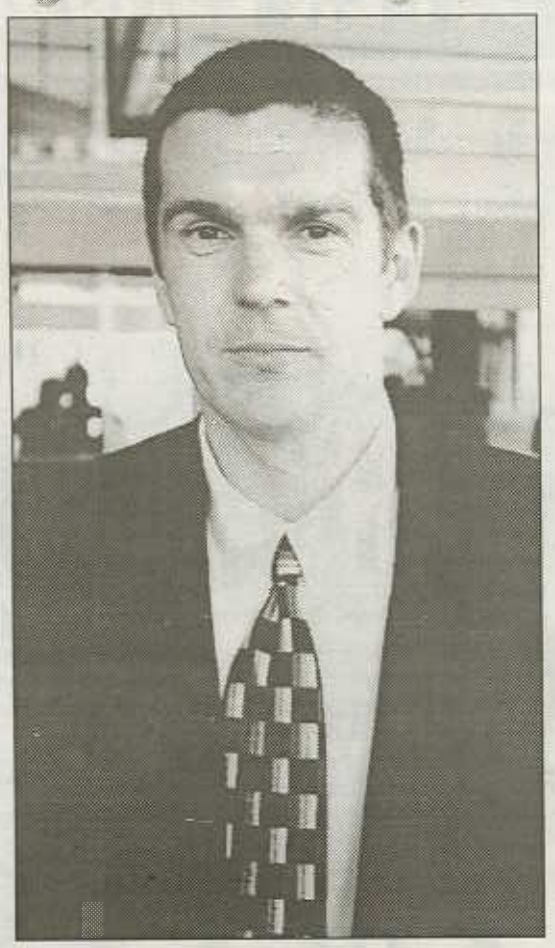
He said the club had cleared any outstanding debts. It intended to spend 50 per cent more on players than it did last season and expand its supporter base to boost the club's presence and profile in the league and region.

These are noble objectives, because not only Morwell needs the Pride, but regional Victoria also needs the involvement, since there's no other major (NSL or VPL) soccer presence in the state, except concentrated in Melbourne.

From Albury to Orbost, or Swan Hill to Ballarat, the soccer shop is empty, except for local leagues.

The Pride stands out as a regional beacon in otherwise barren territory and it plans to branch out, extending its "market base of supporters" to the east and south-east of Melbourne to Cranbourne, Pakenham, Dandenong and Waverley.

Quirk is moving heaven and earth to give Soccer Australia enough faith in the venture to keep the club in the league. In the draft draw, the Pride hosts Newcastle on Saturday, October 14, but first there's the pre-season Tynan-Eyre Cup to fine-tune the new team.



Jeff Hopkins: Looking for a season full of pride.

Re-appointed coach Jeff Hopkins is readying the side for kick-off on September 10 against the Melbourne Knights at the Kingston Heath soccer complex, home of Victorian Premier League club Bentleigh Greens in Melbourne.

Hopkins said he was happy with the changes and forward moves.

"It's a positive way for us to start the season. It would be very good for us, if we can tap into these markets and play in front of bigger crowds," Hopkins said.

Since he's also be able to work with a larger budget, he has already made use of it, plunging into the transfer market to snare some experienced talent.

While overseas, Hopkins spotted striker Neville Roach, 22, training with third division club Southend in England. A former pupil, when Hopkins was playing in England, Roach is expected to score goals for the Pride.

Last season, former Bentleigh Greens forward Juan Nilo and former VPL top scorer with Port Melbourne, Peter Kakos managed just one goal between them.

"Neville is quick and has a good goal sense. I coached him in England when I played for Reading," Hopkins said.

"We created a lot of chances last season, but we failed to capitalise on them. Hopefully, with our new signings we'll score more goals this coming season," he said.

Hopkins also has striker John Angelucci on loan from Parramatta Power, and signed defender Kim Dong Ki from Adelaide City Force, as a replacement for Mehmet Durakovic, who joined South Melbourne.

Others who've left the Pride include strikers Igor Mandic and Kakos, defender Doug Marcina and midfielders Andy Vargas and Sandy Robertson.

On trial are Greg Uhlmann (New Zealand), John Fusco (Adelaide) and Aaron Westervelt from the Australian Institute of Sport.

The signing of Korean Kim Dong Ki coincides with Eastern's desire to capture the Asian-Australian youth market in the region as an extension of its existing local support.

Hopkins said the club aimed to finish in the top half of the competition next season, but also needed to be realistic.

"We can be optimistic, but we'll need to be realistic as well. If we can get in the top half halfway into the season, we'd be in a good position to go forward," Hopkins said.

"We'll have a stronger squad than last year, so the opportunity to push forward will be there," he said.

After the Knights, the Pride will meet South Melbourne on September 16 in the second round of the Tynan-Eyre Cup and Carlton on September 24, before the play-offs on September 29.

Petkovic joins Souths

By Bert van Bedaf

South Melbourne scooped the pool again by re-signing its former goal keeper Michael Petkovic. Petkovic left the club before the start of last season. Out of contract, he made his farewell during the Tynan-Eyre Cup just on a year ago at Bulleen's Veneto Social Club ground.

South was unhappy with his hasty departure, which netted them no transfer fee and left them without a first-choice 'keeper at short notice.

Petkovic was certain to have made a major career breakthrough by joining French first division club Strasbourg. But things didn't work out, because he failed to secure a work permit and he was left to cool his heels on the training ground.

He returned to his home state, West Australia, where brother Jason keeps for Perth Glory. He joined a local team, but is happy to be back at South Melbourne where he won back-to-back national titles in 1998 and 1999.

Petkovic also won the 1999 NSL goalkeeper of the year award.

"I'm just looking forward to getting back on the park and play again (for South Melbourne)," Petkovic said.

"I've learnt from being overseas, but I'm happy to be back at South.

It's a great club. I've enjoyed a lot of success here and I hope to continue that success by winning another national championship in the coming months," he said.

To return under the crossbar Petkovic will need to get past Chris Jones, who did well last season to be selected ahead of Hungarian import Milan Udvaracz, who finished the season in the reserves.

"There is a lot of competition for the position and I realise I can't just expect to be first choice 'keeper again," said Petkovic, who kept for the Socceroos against Manchester United in July last year.

Michael Petkovic: Back at Souths.

CAMDEN TIGERS SOCCER CLUB

Invites Coaching Applications For The 2001 Season

STATE LEAGUE

U/18's, U/21's, 1st Grade — Youth League
U/13's, U/14's U/15's, U/16s — Cadet League
U/11's, U/12's

GOALKEEPING COACH

Minimum Requirements intermediate Level Certificate
Applications Close Friday 8th September 2000
Applications in Writing to:
The Secretary
PO Box 600
Camden NSW 2750

Further Enquiries to Manager Representative Teams
Fred Mackechnie 02 465 67 658 or 0414 678 186

CADETS & SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE TRIALS FOR THE YEAR 2001 SEASON

PARRAMATTA EAGLES SOCCER CLUB

Under 11's Sunday, 3rd September, 10th September, 2000
Time: 10am to 12noon
Thursday 7th September, 14th September 2000
Time: 6.00pm to 8.00pm

Under 12's Sunday, 3rd September, 10th September 2000
Time: 12noon to 2.00pm
Monday 4th September, 11th September 2000
Time: 6.00pm to 8.00pm

LOCATION: Everley Park, Everley Road, Chester Hill (Off Ferndell Street) Outside Melita Stadium

Under 13's Monday, 2nd October, 9th October, 16th October
Time: 6.30pm to 8.30pm

Under 14's Tuesday, 3rd October, 10th October, 17th October
Time: 6.30pm to 8.30pm

Under 15's Wed, 4th October, 11th October, 18th October
Time: 6.30pm to 8.30pm

Under 17's Thursday, 5th October, 12th October, 19th October
Time: 6.30pm to 8.30pm

LOCATION: Ray Marshall Reserve, Wellington & Eric Streets, South Granville.

For Further Details: Phone 9645 4413 or contact John Comito (W) 9888 4758

MARCONI — Soccer Trials

SUPER CADET LEAGUE & SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE

ALL TRIALS WILL BE HELD AT CLUB MARCONI
MARCONI PLAZA, BOSSLEY PARK

U/11 & U/12 Super Cadet League

Saturday, 2 September, 2000
U/11: 9.00am — 10.30am U/12: 10.45am — 11.30am
Sunday, 3 September, 2000
U/11: 9.30am — 11.00am U/12: 11.15am — 12.30am
Wednesday, 6 September, 2000
U/11 & U/12: 6.30pm — 8.00pm

Under 13 — Under 17 Super Youth League

Saturday, 7 October, 2000
U/13: 9.00am — 12.00pm U/14: 3.30pm — 5.00pm
Sunday, 8 October, 2000
U/15: 9.30am — 12.00pm U/17: 3.30pm — 5.00pm
Tuesday, 10 October, 2000
U/13 & U/14: 6.00pm start
Thursday, 12 October, 2000
U/15 & U/17: 6.00pm start
Thursday, 17 October, 2000
U/13 & U/14: 6.00pm start
U/15 & U/17: 7.30pm start

** PLEASE RING OWN WATER BOTTLES & SHIN PADS **

WANTED

... soccer coaches who bring out the best in people

The Melbourne Knights is seeking coaches for its Academy Squad, Development Squad and Junior Teams.
We want coaches who demand the best from their players and can lead with passion and excellence.
Do you inspire and make people go that little bit extra?
Then be part of a Club being rejuvinated and setting new benchmarks for Australian soccer.
Coaches with certificates and proven track records preferred.

Applications close September 8.

Apply to:
The Coaching Director
Melbourne Knights
Somer Street,
Sunshine Vic 3020

For Inquiries Ring
Luciano Trani on 0409 356 189, or
Robert Hrzic on (03) 9312 3584

MARCONI WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

Back Row L to R: John Sevil (Manager), Mellisa Link, Wendy Graham, Lisa Warrener, Nikki Pichon, Alicia Cavanagh, Joanne Peters, Greg Stanmore (Coach).
Front Row L to R: Catherine Cannuli, Tracey Oldham, Neisha Klessattel, Kylie Ledbrook, Lisa Collins, Joanne Burgess.

MARCONI WOMEN'S UNDER 21s CHAMPIONS

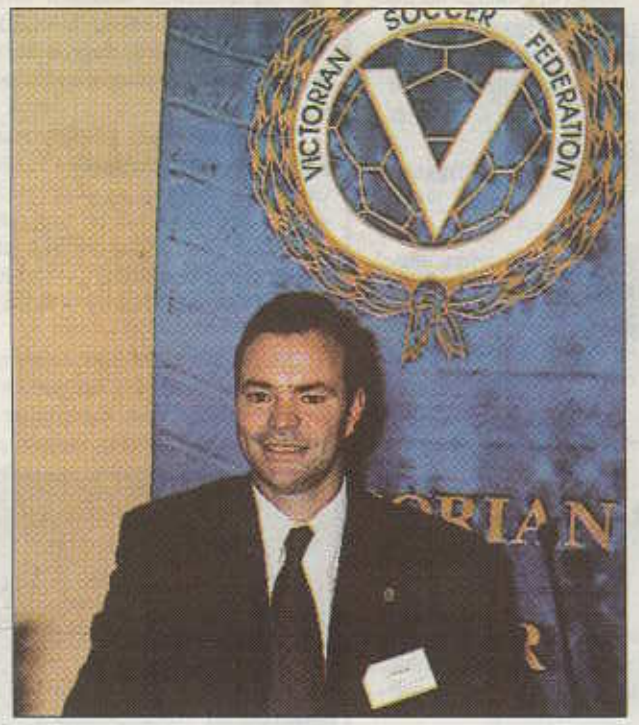
Back Row L to R: John Brillo, Sonja Majkovska, Lisa Gatt, Alison Hogg, Natascia Cavaretta, Nikki Pichon, Zoi Gamble, Nicole Kimber, Catriona Watt, Leigh Wardell (Coach).
Front Row L to R: Karen Dickinson, Celeste Fihlebon, Jenny Jacques, Kelly Sevil, Melissa Clancy, Laura Parker, Fabiana Perfillo.

Both teams won their Leagues as well as their Grand Finals

★★★ Special Olympics Feature ★★★

Melbourne to join Elite list of two-time cities

In just over a fortnight, Melbourne will become one of a few elite cities in the world to have staged an Olympic event twice. In 1956, it was the host city. This time it will host the world game. Victorian editor Bert van Bedaf interviewed VSF chief executive Geoff Miles, who is also the Competition Manager Football of the Olympic Games in Melbourne.



Geoff Miles: VSF CEO is doing a Stirling job for the Olympic games.

The MCG hosted the now infamous Australia v Iran match. Now it's set to host another selection of super matches.

MILES AHEAD

VSF CEO set to pass his grandest test

Victorian Soccer Federation chief executive Geoff Miles looks like he's played three football matches in a row and the virus testing his immune system isn't helping either.

The usually resilient administrator was absent from the VSF's recent Gold Medal night. Miles missing in action is so rare, the crowd felt it like there'd been a death in the family. VSF Chairman Manny Galanos read Miles speech and then introduced himself as the next speaker from Miles paper, adding a welcome humorous note to the dour proceedings.

The fact was the VSF executive was at home in bed, ill and exhausted after burning too many candles for too long at too many ends. The Olympics had caught up with him before they'd begun and sitting across the table of a South Melbourne café, he's manfully coping under the flu-ridden strain.

As Competition Manager Football of the Olympic Games in Melbourne (official title), Miles has been immersed in organising the Melbourne matches of the Olympic football tournament for nearly two years while working with SOCOG and looking after VSF matters.

It has been an exciting but also a hectic and draining period in the life of Victoria's top soccer/football administrator. He has been training and overseeing a team of 130 volunteers, including 10 members of his VSF staff, who will be involved in ensuring the smooth running of a dozen matches at the MCG.

He is particularly pleased with the high representation of Victorian players in the Australian Olympic squad.

"We're thrilled to see so many of our own boys at their home base and it would be great to see them representing their country in front of their home crowd at the MCG on opening night against Italy," Miles said.

Victoria's array of local talent is impressive, comprising ten players who have come through Victorian development programs and/or have played for Melbourne clubs.

They are Con Blatsis (formerly South Melbourne now with Derby County in England), Marco Bresciano (Bulleen/Carlton, now with Empoli, Italy), Simon Colosimo (Carlton, expected to sign for an overseas club after the Olympics), Michael Curcija (South Melbourne/Perth/Partizan Belgrade, Yugoslavia), Joe Didulica (Geelong/-Melbourne Knights/Ajax Amsterdam, Holland), Vince Grella (Carlton/Ternana, Italy), Mark Viduka (Melbourne Knights/Dinamo Zagreb/Celtic Glasgow, Scotland/Leeds, England), Jason Culina (Sydney Olympic/Ajax), Archie Thompson (Carlton) and on standby Dragi Nastevski (Knights).

"We are proud of their achievements, which is a credit to their hard work and dedication. The strong Victorian representation is also indicative of the strength of the sport in Victoria, which has been highlighted by the huge growth in junior participation in recent years," Miles said.

"The sport is booming at the grassroots in Victoria. We have about 50,000 students playing soccer in the state. Also, for the first time there are more primary school soccer teams than Aussie Rules teams in Melbourne.

The Olympic football games will stimulate that growth even further.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for Victorians to be exposed to the world game and to experience the passion of football and the skills of some of the world's best players at the MCG.

"It's a great chance for youngsters (boys and girls) to see the world's best and to aspire to take up the game," he said.

The immediate attention is focused on the opening night on Wednesday, September 13, when the women's match between Sweden and Brazil kicks off at 5pm, followed by an opening ceremony and the big event between Australia and Italy at 8pm.

A crowd of 80,000-plus is expected at the 'G', reliving shades of the Socceroos match against Iran three years ago.

There will be an army of 3500 stewards at the stadium, assisting patrons, officials and a large international media contingent in their needs. Add to that a massive police presence, local officials and staff from outside Melbourne and total support will extend to about 5000.

This is by far the biggest event Miles has helped organise. He said it's the highlight so far of what has been already an impressive career as a sportsman and administrator.

"This is the biggest event I've worked on. The scale of the operation, the number of matches and the length of the training period make it a huge event," he said.

Miles represented Victoria in Sheffield Shield cricket during the early 1980s, ran his own sports promotion business and was tennis manager at the Melbourne Park Tennis Centre before taking up the VSF position in 1996.

Melbourne's enjoyed quite a bit of experience in recent times in staging big soccer matches. There were the Socceroos matches at the MCG against Iran in 1997, against Manchester United and Brazil in July and November last year, and against Paraguay at Olympic Park last June, as well as the women's Federations Cup at South Melbourne's Bob Jane stadium last January.

But hosting 12 matches of the Olympics football tournament over three weeks is by far the biggest challenge and event.

By the time the Melbourne component of the tournament finishes an anticipated 400,000 spectators will have been to the Olympic matches at the MCG. In magnitude, the games surpass any AFL grand final or cricket test, Miles said, and he's had to consider all eventualities.

"Our role (130 team) is to co-ordinate all match nights at the MCG. We are responsible for the conduct of the matches and overseeing the match statistics, results, and the distribution inside the stadium, to the world media and official website, as well as co-ordinating the video boards, stadium announcements and assisting with the organising of on-site entertainment," Miles said.

Miles's team will also look after the arrangements of the various national teams and officials at Melbourne's training sites at Olympic Park, South Melbourne, Altona Magic's Paisley Park, Port Melbourne's Anderson Reserve, Bulleen's Veneto ground and Epping stadium in Whittlesea.

The group will be operational from September 2, when the U23 international teams are expected to arrive. It will conclude its duties the day after the men's semi-final on Thursday night, September 26.

"We'll have at least 14 teams, seven men and seven women's teams, playing in Melbourne. And there could well be additional teams, such as Brazil, if it is playing in the semi-final. There may be periods when there are up to eight teams in town during the quarter and semi-finals," Miles said.

"One of our other big challenges is that five of our match nights feature double headers (women's and men's matches). There will be twice the amount of activities, which will put tight time frames on our duties," he said.

There's also the prospect of having Australia return to Melbourne for a quarter-final, on Saturday, September 23, and hopefully staying for the semi-final three days later.

Australia has drawn a particularly strong group, consisting of U23 European champion and gold medal favourite Italy, Olympic champion Nigeria and Central American champion Honduras.

Should Australia finish top of its group, it will stay in Sydney and its opening appearance would be the only one at the MCG. If Australia finishes second in the group, it will return to Melbourne for its finals prospects.

The bronze medal play-off will be held at the Sydney Football stadium on September 29 and the gold medal play-off at the Sydney Olympic stadium on September 30.

"This will be exciting times for Melbourne. We've never had so many international teams at once in town. This is a fantastic tournament to have in Melbourne. But the icing on the cake would be for Australia to do well in front of capacity crowds at the MCG," Miles said.

MATCHES AT THE MCG:

Wednesday, 13 September: Sweden v Brazil (women), gala ceremony, Australia v Italy (men).

Thursday, 14 September: USA v Norway (women), Morocco v Chile (men).

Sunday, 17 September: USA v China (women), Spain v Chile (men).

Tuesday, 19 September: Germany v Sweden (women), USA v Kuwait (men).

Wednesday, 20 September: USA v Nigeria (women), Spain v Morocco (men).

Saturday, 23 September: men's quarter-final.

Tuesday, 26 September: men's semi-final.

Letters to the Editor

Out with the old, in with the new

Dear Sir,

Soccer Australia's continued mis-management of our game has to be seen to be believed. Whenever a club is struggling, SA puts more hurdles in their way to make sure they fall.

They then try to place a new team in the same area.

Well here's an idea, how about SA trying to help teams to improve their product.

Soccer in this country will never grow if SA keeps killing off its history to replace it with "shiny new objects" that the fans don't support.

My father was a Newcastle KB united supporter but has not gone to the soccer since their demise so when I was a youngster no-one took me to the early Newcastle Breakers games.

I had to discover the entertainment of soccer for myself, and now that Newcastle is starting to support the Breakers. SA now wants to kill them off so that the Northern NSW Soccer Federation and some rich bloke can replace them with their won "shiny new object."

SA has to start promoting the NSL through the various media outlets, extract itself from its farcical TV deal and start supporting the current clubs.

Otherwise more people (myself included) are going to do as my father DID and just walk away from the game ... and they never come back.

Dave Hughes,
Cardiff, NSW.

You know what they say...if it ain't broke, don't fix it. The question is..do the Breakers need fixing? - Ed.

Cut Newcastle a break

Dear Sir,

Has Soccer Australia got rocks in their heads ?

After six months of financial uncertainty, the Newcastle Breakers looked certain to be in safe hands.

The new owner, John Palmer/Tru Blu, by Soccer Australia's own investigations, was shown to be financially solvent and capable of meeting the obligations of running an N.S.L Club.

Yet, for some reason Soccer Australia found it necessary to burden the club with a $500,000 "Security Bond," twice the amount that other clubs in the N.S.L are required to provide.

The players & coaching staff have shown a fantastic commitment to prepare for the upcoming season, and will be the ones to suffer the most because of Soccer Australia's dithering.

And lets not forget the supporters, the whole reason for professional sport's existence in the modern world. Hasn't the Super League experience shown that if the supporters are not happy, they will be lost.

If the Newcastle Breakers do not exist, there will be no Rowdies, there will be no Catlin Crew, there will be no supporters and soccer in Newcastle will be dead.

Brett Williams,
Valentine, NSW

Brett, I hope the Breakers aren't lost forever. It seemed they finally had their act together on the pitch. Let's hope those that make the decisions do learn from the Super League debacle. - Ed.

Geelong firms for Olympic practice match

By Bert van Bedaf

Melbourne's southern satellite city of Geelong is making a strong bid to stage at least one of two Olympic warm-up matches for the Australian team.

The Olyroos, which officially must be referred to as the Australian men's under-23 team, are scheduled to play warm-up matches against Kuwait on September 5 and against South Africa two days later at venues yet to be decided. A decision is expected soon and Geelong is in the running.

Olympic coach Raul Blanco gave qualified approval to the idea, instigated by the Geelong Major Events organisation and local soccer club Geelong Rangers president Paul Millar, who is also Victoria's AAP sports editor in Melbourne.

Raul Blanco: Olympic coach.

Millar said he believed it was "an ideal opportunity to bring the Olympic side to Geelong", because of the restrictions placed upon such matches by SOCOG, Sydney's Olympic organising committee.

There can be no charge for the practice games under FIFA rules, therefore "it will be a free-for-all," Millar said.

If one of the matches goes to Geelong, or perhaps both, they will be staged at Kardinia Park, known as the Shell stadium and home of the Geelong Aussie rules football club. The stadium was the venue of an NSL Melbourne Knights match a few years ago.

Geelong's connection with the Olympic team goes back to Steve Horvat (ex-Melbourne Knights and now with Carlton), who was part of the Olyroos at Atlanta four years ago.

Geelong's current Olympic star is goal keeper Joe Didulica, who moved from the Melbourne Knights to Ajax Amsterdam, Holland, last season.

Blanco inspected the pitch several days ago. "It looks a bit bumpy, but we'll decide shortly," he said.

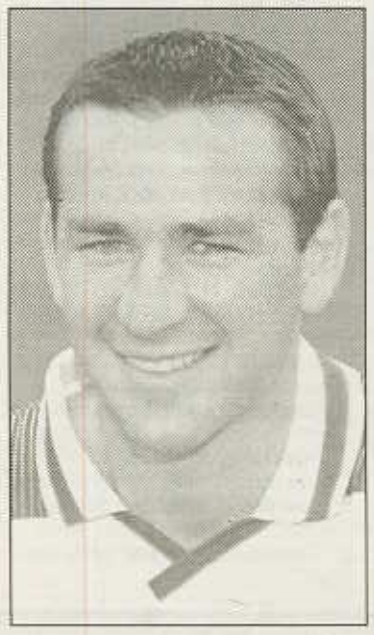
Some playing grounds have caused the Olympic organisers concern in recent days. Melbourne's ground at the MCG will need to be resurfaced after last Sunday's Aussie Rules grand final between Essendon and Melbourne.

The pitch will be excavated immediately after the grand final and resurfaced with a type of grass suited to soccer before the official hand-over on September 7.

The grass has been cultivated at a farm in regional Victoria since 1998, but the location of the farm has been kept a well-guarded secret.

AUSSIES AROUND THE GLOBE

With Arvind Hickman **Did you know that there are over 100 Australian soccer players plying their trade in many of the top leagues around the world? Every year new names emerge on the world stage, painting the picture of green and gold into a portrait of global recognition. Aussies Around The Globe is our weekly look at the exploits of these players and their performance.**



Stuart Lovell: Player of the Week.

England: Three Aussies featured in the Premier League game between Leeds United and Middlesbrough on Saturday.

Socceroo captain, Paul Okon, was employed as a defensive midfielder and was one of Boro's better players, despite playing for 72 minutes with a broken foot.

Okon sustained the injury after only three minutes, but didn't realise until the swelling increased and he had to be taken off. Okon will be out for at least six weeks and will certainly miss the Olympic Games.

The two other Aussies who played include Middlesbrough goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer, who kept the scoreline respectable with a string of fine saves, and Mark Viduka, who was instrumental in setting up Leeds' first goal. The final score, 2-1 to Leeds.

Division Two: Daniel Invincibile has continued his good run of form by scoring Swindon Town's only goal in a 4-1 defeat to Walsall.

Division Three: Richard Garcia has scored a double, including a spectacular overhead kick to steer Leyton Orient to a 2-2 draw with Blackpool.

Scotland: Stuart Lovell has scored a double, including an 18 yard drive, to keep Hibernian at the top of the Scottish Premier League after defeating St Mirren 2-0.

Belgium: In last week's action, Lierse striker Joe Spiteri played against Zeljko Babic's Sint-Truiden in the Belgian first division.

Both players only played for half a game with Lierse victorious 2-1. Meanwhile, Josip Skoko played a full game and scored the opening goal for Racing Genk, who beat Aalst 3-1.

Croatia: Former Sydney United player, Ante Milicic, has come off the bench to score an equaliser in the last few minutes as Rijeka drew 2-2 at home to Varteks in the Croatian first division.

Japan: Socceroo defender Tony Popovic played a full game and scored a goal in the 62nd minute as Sanfrecce Hiroshima lost 3-2 at home to Gamba Osaka.

Socceroo team-mate Steve Corica also played a full game. Popovic has scored four goals for Sanfrecce Hiroshima this season, who are placed ninth with five rounds to go.

Player of the Week: It is nice to know that even without the brilliance of Mark Viduka (Leeds Utd) and Craig Moore (injured), an Aussie can still steal the show in the Scottish Premier League.

Take a bow Stuart Lovell, not only for your double strike, but for also helping Hibs keep the 'Old Firm' honest at the top of the Scottish Premier League.

Paul Okon: Played for 72 minutes with a broken foot.

THE GREEK-AUSTRALIAN SPORTS HALL OF FAME

is being established by

THE MILLENNIUM HERITAGE COMMITTEE

of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia

HONOURING SPORTS CHAMPIONS FROM THE PAST & PRESENT

ANY AUSTRALIAN CITIZEN OF GREEK DESCENT QUALIFIES

DETAILS BELOW:

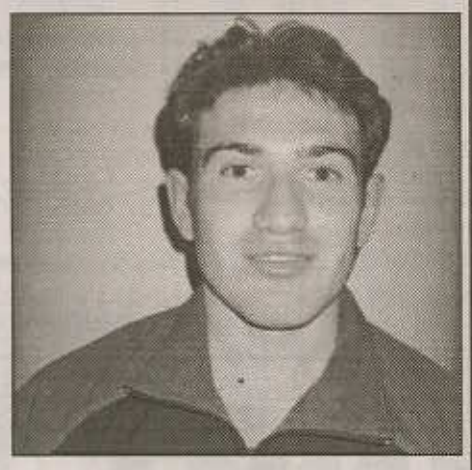
33. STAN LAZARIDIS

Stan Lazaridis began his career in WA playing for Kingsway Olympic and Floreat Athena but he soon moved to NSL club West Adelaide.

It didn't take long before Lazaridis was an integral member of the Socceroos.

He then move to the English Premier League with West Ham and is currently playing for Birmingham City in Division One.

He has been selected as one of the three over-age players for the coming Olympics in Sydney.



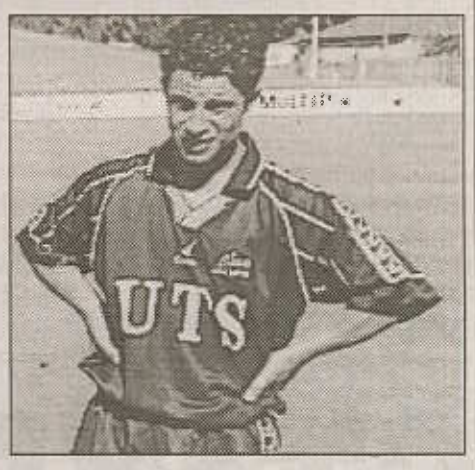
Stan Lazaridis

34. ANTHONY DOUMANIS

Born in Sydney on February 1, 1982, Doumanis was a member of the Joeys (under 17's) that lost the World Cup Final to Brazil in 1999 in New Zealand.

Together with Lucas Pantelis, Doumanis holds the distinction of being the only Greek background players to play in a World Cup Final.

In season 1999-2000 Doumanis was voted the National Youth League Player of the Year - Northern Division.



Anthony Doumanis

35. GEORGE SORRAS

George Sorras

George Sorras represented Australia at Under 20 level and was part of the team that went to the World Youth Championships in Portugal in 1991.

At that event Sorras played against hosts and eventual winners Portugal in the semi-final.

Sorras also played for Sydney Olympic in the NSL.

36. LEON GARDIKIOTIS

Leon Gardikiotis (centre)

Leon Gardikiotis spent a number of years as a player in Australia and Greece before turning his rank to coaching eventually becoming assistant coach at Wollongong in the NSL.

Gardikiotis holds the distinction of being the only Greek-Australian to coach the national team of another country after he was appointed coach of Tahiti earlier this year.

1. Who has been **selected** for or **played** in a **national** team for either **Australia** or **Greece** or any **other Nation** in any sport *(e.g. soccer, rugby league, aussie rules, judo, karate, boxing, wrestling, basketball, tennis, cricket, netball, softball, surfing, chess, badminton, kick-boxing, etc)* or

2. Who has been **selected** for or **represented** either **Australia** or **Greece** or any **other Nation** in any games discipline, indoor or outdoor, summer or winter *(e.g. track and field, swimming, weightlifting, shooting, rowing, gymnastics, bowling, skating, skiing, bob-sledding, sailing, diving, cycling, etc)*, or

3. Who has **won** an **Australian** or **Greek** or **any other NATIONAL** sports event, or

4. Who has held a national or international or world **RECORD** in any sports event.

CANDIDATES FOR THE "SPORTS HALL OF FAME" MAY BE:

- Male or Female
- Living or Deceased
- Able or Disabled
- Amateur or Professional
- From All Age Groups

Are you a past or present champion? Do you know of a past or present champion?

THEN CONTACT US IMMEDIATELY WITH DETAILS FOR INCLUSION IN THE HISTORIC PUBLICATION AND PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY

The proceeds will go to The ProviCare Foundation (saving lives from drugs and alcohol) and to Breast Cancer Research

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providing name, address, contact number (of the sportspeople or their family) and precise details of sports distinctions for each candidate.

Information must be received by 30th July, 2000.

N.B. Achievements must be verifiable!

THE GREEK-AUSTRALIAN SPORTS HALL OF FAME will be officially ANNOUNCED AT A GALA EVENING ON SEPTEMBER 2nd AT THE WESTIN HOTEL with special GUEST, THE HONOURABLE JOHN HOWARD.

QUEENSLAND SOCCER FEDERATION

"Perry Park" Abbotsford Road, Mayne Brisbane 4006.

Phone: (07) 3252 5327 • Fax: (07) 3252 1137

XXXX LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	GF	AG	Pts
Brisbane City	27	18	5	4	57	18	59
Brisbane Lions	27	16	7	4	55	27	55
Rochedale Rov	27	14	4	9	49	38	46
Gold Coast City	27	13	5	9	46	31	44
IPSW Knights	27	12	1	14	33	36	37
Wynnum	27	10	7	10	38	43	37
T'wmba Raiders	27	7	8	12	29	46	29
B'berg Waves	27	6	9	12	25	37	27
Taringa Rovers	27	6	6	15	25	44	24
Mt Gravatt	27	4	6	17	29	66	18

ROUND 27

Mt Gravatt .....1 B'berg Waves 3
T'wmba Raiders .....3 Rochedale Rov 2
IPSW Knights .....0 Brisbane Lions 1
Taringa Rovers .....2 Gold Coast City 1
Brisbane City .....1 Wynnum 1

DIVISION ONE - NORTH

	P	W	D	L	GF	AG	Pts
Uni of Qld	24	17	3	4	71	29	54
Mitchelton	24	15	3	6	58	32	48
North Star	24	14	3	7	66	32	45
Pine Rivers Utd	24	13	6	5	50	29	45
The Gap	24	11	2	11	50	43	35
Newmarket	24	8	9	7	42	39	33
North Pine	24	9	4	11	43	54	31
Albany Creek	24	2	6	16	32	81	12
Grange Thistle	24	0	2	22	11	84	2

ROUND 27

Mitchelton .....3 Albany Creek 1
North Star .....1 Pine Rivers Utd 4
The Gap .....1 Grange Thistle 0
North Pine .....2 Uni of Qld 6

Newmarket - Bye

DIVISION ONE - SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Eastern Subs	24	16	6	2	77	26	54
Souths Utd	24	11	9	4	69	19	42
Rocklea Utd	24	12	5	7	58	36	41
Acacia Ridge	23	12	4	7	49	38	40
Olympic Utd	23	10	6	7	60	35	36
Capalaba	24	9	5	10	41	48	32
Redlands Utd	24	7	5	12	39	50	26
Slacks Creek	24	6	6	12	35	52	24
Beenleigh	24	1	0	23	21	145	3

ROUND 27

Capalaba .....1 Rocklea Utd 2
Eastern Subs .....2 Redlands Utd 2
Beenleigh .....0 Souths Utd 13

Olympic Utd v Acacia Ridge (Play 5pm tonight)
Slacks Creek - bye

STATE AGAINST STATE

NSW and Queensland set to go head to head

By Glenn Davis

The long overdue return of interstate football between Queensland and New South Wales at Perry Park on Sunday has again ignited calls for a full-blown Sheffield Shield type State of origin competition between the major States.

It's been several years since the mighty New South Wales played Queensland, but it seems these two States are the only ones interested in representative football for State league players.

A Sheffield Shield type competition was first mooted several years ago, but it's now got the backing of Queensland coach Miron Bleiberg.

Bleiberg said the State Of Origin concept was hugely successful in rugby league and had the potential to be a major success in soccer if all States participated, not just a few.

Bleiberg and many others in Queensland believe the interstate competition could dovetail perfectly into the summer national league but it would need the blessing of NSL clubs.

"There's two ways it could be played," Bleiberg said.

"The first is it could be played between the States to reward State league players at the end of the season or second, it could be played with national league players during the national league season under a State Of Origin concept.

"The national league may need to have a week off but it would work well."

The highly astute Bleiberg had extensive experience in the national league coaching Heidleberg United and Melbourne Croatia before he moved to Brisbane where he was in charge of Brisbane United for two years.

Miron Bleiberg: Queensland State coach.

He then coached in the local premier league for several seasons winning three Grand Finals in Brisbane, two with Lions and one with North Star.

Meanwhile Bleiberg, whose Queensland side will play a trial against Brisbane Strikers at Perry Park on Wednesday night, is confronted with a dilemma choosing his final Queensland line-up for Sunday's clash with New South Wales.

Bleiberg named players from every premier league side in his original 30-man Queensland squad and was subsequently criticised by Brisbane Lions coach John Ogden for "cheapening" the Maroon jersey.

Bleiberg, who claimed Ogden's remarks were out or order, has reduced his squad to 22 players but won't be able to name his final starting line-up until the morning of the State game due to the "unofficial" semi-final matches being played on Saturday night.

"Unfortunately I've got players in this so-called unofficial semi-final series the night before and I'll probably have to choose players not involved," he said.

"The side I pick probably won't be the strongest but it will be the fittest and toughest."

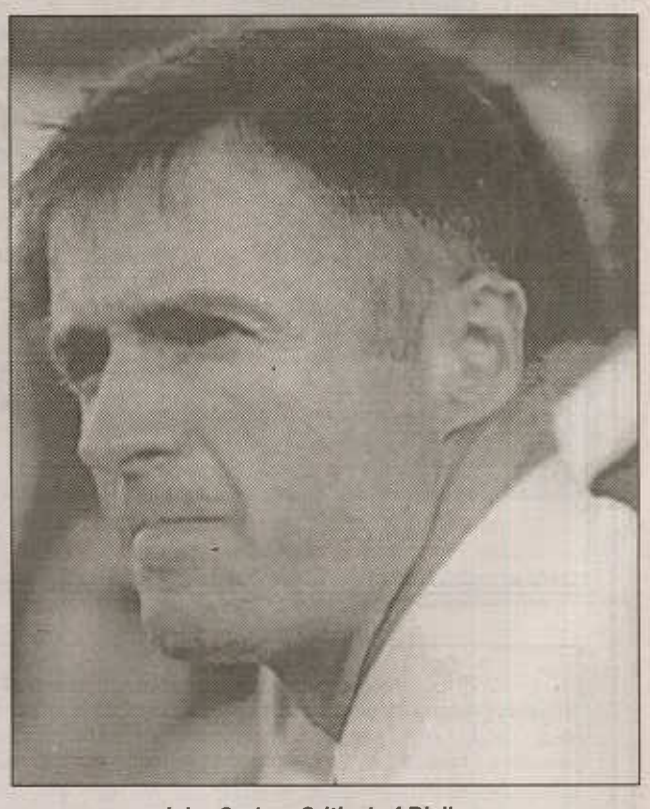
Bleiberg dismissed Ogden's criticism of his selections as well as his criticism of officials for choosing an open age State team to play the Australian Olympic team in warm-up matches.

Ogden said a golden opportunity had been missed to match up a State Under 23 side against the Olyroos and claimed there was no-one in soccer with any foresight.

However, Bleiberg said his intentions in selecting players from every club in his original 30-man squad was a marketing tactic aimed to get all clubs interested in the exhibition State game.

"I never said they'd be an even spread of players from all clubs in the final team I select," he said.

"My aim is to help all players and as far as the Under-23 age limit is concerned. Why should players be prevented from playing for their State because of their age?



John Ogden: Critical of Bleiberg.

"I'd like nothing better than to see some of these players go on and perhaps play with the Brisbane Strikers because they were given the opportunity to play for their State," he said.

Bleiberg believed the inter-State clash would be a professional battle to see which State league - Brisbane or Sydney - was the strongest.

"From a players point of view it is very important because coaches from the national league clubs looking for players this season will know which league is the stronger."

Meanwhile the final round of the premier league season concluded last weekend with a few upsets but with no change to the final four.

Brisbane City, who celebrated the premiership last week, were held to a 1-1 draw by Wynnum, Toowoomba Raiders upset Rochedale 3-2, while Taringa scored a goal in each half to down Gold Coast 2-1.

Predictable victories went to Bundaberg with a 3-1 win over wooden spooners Mt Gravatt while Brisbane Lions scored a second half goal to beat Ipswich 1-0.

QLD SQUAD

Demetri Theohari, Vedran Becirbegovic, Barry Wilkinson (Brisbane City); Chris Day, Darren Sime, Danny Britton, Royce Brownlie (Brisbane Lions); Damian Harris, Bard Ditton, Danny Stowers, Matt Olley, Ross Davidson (Rochedale); Warren Allen, Adam Evans, Steve Fitzsimmons, Jamie Irwin (Gold Coast City); Anthony Roche (Wynnum), Jason Lucas, Ken Caldwell, Peter McKendrick, Peter Hinks (Ipswich Knights), Craig Barnes, Craig Collins, Francis Cosson (Taringa Rovers); Tony Roebuck (Bundaberg); Cameron Williams, Colin Hackwood, Trevor Gilliland (Toowoomba Raiders.

COSMOS CHASE PORTUGESE DEFENDER

By Graham Cooke

Canberra Cosmos are launching a determined bid to bring their former star Portuguese defender, Amarildo Miglietti, back to the club, coach Tom Sermanni says.

"Now that Danny Burt has decided to sign for Sydney United, we need someone with quality at the back, and Amarildo would be my choice," he said.

"The player has indicated his interest through his agent. It is just a question of being able to put together a package that will be acceptable to him, given our tight budget.

"He is a family man with two children, and we would want him to have them here with him."

Sermanni agreed it was an ambitious move, not least because Miglietti was strong-armed into accepting less than his original contract had stipulated when he played for the Cosmos during the 1998-99 season.

But the steady, consistent defender is keen to move to Australia on a permanent basis and would probably forget about past grievances in order to establish himself here.

The coach said he has a budget "which is very tight, but it is up to me how I apportion it".

He began the belated task of putting a side together at the weekend when the remains of last season's squad — about 12 in number — were joined by around 20 trialists.

"We have started the process, but let no one be under any illusions — we will go into the season considerably less well prepared than we did last time," he said.

"Normally at this stage I would have had the basic structure of the squad in place and be filling in the holes. Instead I have got one big hole.

Tom Sermanni: Preparations finally start.

"We could have six great players trialing who are all centre backs, and no-one who can play up front. It is a hit-and-miss situation, and I have very little time to identify any weaknesses then target players to remedy them.

"Add to that the risk factor of having half your squad who are new - the personality clashes and so on - and we are going to need a large slice of luck to go with the good judgement."

One bright spot on the Cosmos horizon is the response to the announcement they will run a youth team. Sermanni said two trials have already been held with more than 40 youngsters attending.

"The standard has been good, the enthusiasm excellent. I have a feeling we will have a squad which will carry on the excellent traditions of Canberra youth teams in the National and NSW youth leagues.

"And it goes beyond simply giving players a career path to the first team. Having mostly local youngsters means we tie the club more closely to the community."

Young Adam Kicks On

By Graham Cooke

A debilitating immune deficiency illness which has plagued him since birth has not stopped eight-year-old Adam Newman's passion for soccer.

Given special dispensation to play a year below his age group because of his small size, the youngster has been a workhorse for Gungahlin Juventus under-eights in the ACT Junior League.

"He wants to do everything...the other day he scored two goals and told me his ambition was to play for Brazil," his grandmother, Liz Gardiner, said.

"I'm not sure how he thinks he will manage that.

"Then a few weeks ago I found him on the phone trying to get through to the local radio station. I asked him what he was doing and he said he had heard they wanted Olympic soccer volunteers and he was going to put his name forward.

"I had to tell him I thought he might be a little young."

Amazing Adam Newman with his treasured possessions.

But when news of Adam reached Canberra officials of the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games they swept into action.

Last week Adam was invited to Bruce Stadium to be "a volunteer for the day" during which he met Matildas captain Alison Forman and goalkeeper Tracy Wheeler, who presented him with a signed soccer ball and a scaled down Australian jersey.

Also on hand were Canberra Cosmos players David Arranz and Nic Purdue who gave him a club T-shirt. "We want you to know all the Cosmos are on your side," Purdue said.

It was a good outcome for everyone. Spurred on by her grandson's enthusiasm, Ms Gardiner decided to become a volunteer herself and has been employed in the uniform section before moving on to spectator services.

"I have really enjoyed it," she said. "Working for the Olympics is not a chore — it's a privilege."

BRUCE PITCH IN DOUBT

By Graham Cooke

Canberra SOCOG workers are engaged in a desperate race to have the Bruce Stadium surface ready in time for the first Olympic matches there on September 13.

While there has been a general closing of the ranks, with inquiries consistently answered by "we are certain the pitch will be in perfect condition by the opening game", there is no doubting the mounting concern over the failure of some parts of the newly-laid turf to "take".

Last week the growing cover was off and workers were replacing sections of turf on a surface which was all shades of green and, more ominously, brown.

Adding to the problem is one of Canberra's coldest Augusts in recent times, with maximum temperatures hovering around 12 degrees and heading into minus territory at night.

The surface has been under question ever since the ACT Brumbies rugby union team and the Raiders rugby league side played there on the same stormy, bitterly cold weekend in May.

Shortly afterwards a FIFA official inspected the pitch and described it as "completely unacceptable".

A program of renovation was thrown into chaos when the Raiders gained a home semi-final in the NRL competition, putting back plans to relay the surface by a month.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE JUNIOR SOCCER FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED

Youth League Trials

13 YEARS
Start on Tuesday 3rd October, 2000
14 YEARS
Start on Wednesday 4th October, 2000
15 YEARS
Start on Thursday 5th October, 2000
17 YEARS
Start on Friday, 6th October, 2000

Players from the U15 and U17 Age Groups will have the opportunity to be selected for trials with English Premier League Clubs.

Coaches include Ex-Socceroo John O'Shea and Super State League Coach of the Year Peter Terry.

Trials Commence at 6.00pm
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BATES DRIVE, KAREELA

ANY ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT
TOM HILL (SECRETARY)
TELEPHONE 0418 269 943

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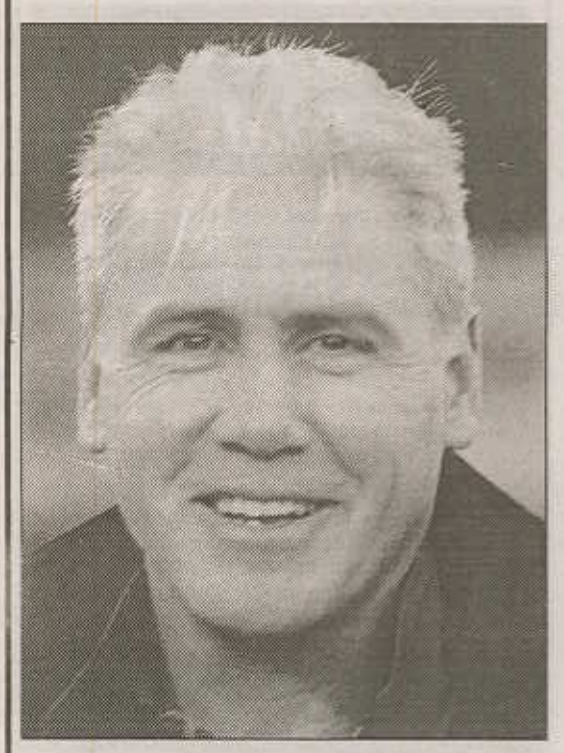
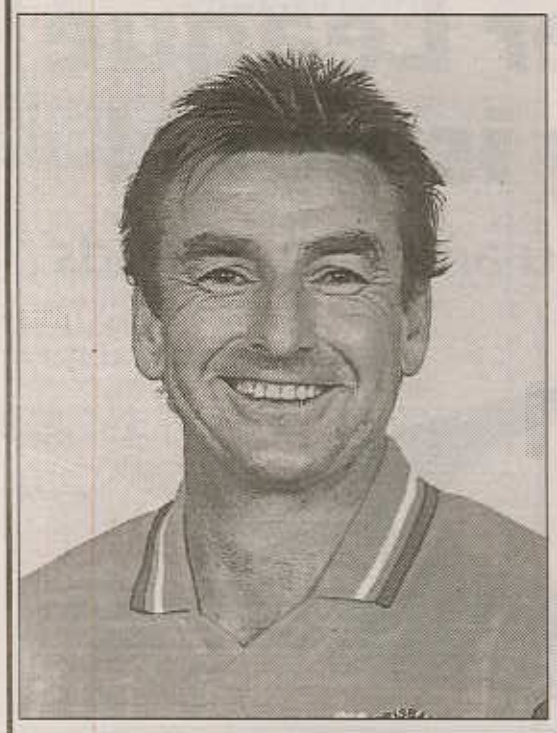
WATSON'S WONDERFUL FRIENDS

By John Economos

Joe Watson: Australia's legendary best crosser of the ball.



Steve ('Rocky') O'Connor: International rock solid stopper.



John Kosmina: Former Australian World Cup captain.

JOEY WATSON, former Australian World Cup right winger extraordinaire, having recently been tragically struck down by a very serious illness, has over the past almost three weeks ignited an unbelievable chain-reaction from his countless friends and the general Soccer community.

Today, the former magnificent little Hakoah then Sydney City right winger, is lying in hospital, literally fighting his greatest battle, that for his life.

Unquestionably the very best crosser of the ball that Australia has seen, Joey Watson, a former apprentice with Nottingham Forest, migrated to Australia in the early 70s from his native Scotland.

The creator of hundreds of goals yielded from his lethal crosses that exploded from his size five right boot over the years for both Hakoah and Sydney City, as well as for Australia, brought immense joy to thousands of Soccer fans.

Now Joey Watson is in a real fight, but he's not been left to fight alone.

Three weeks ago Watson underwent surgery that lasted over 22 hours, the very first type of operation ever performed in Australia.

The medical and hospital bills rapidly rocketted into the many tens of thousands of dollars.

Funds were now most urgently needed.

Led by two of Joey's former team-mates at Sydney City, international sweeper Alex Robertson and international goalkeeper Tony Pezzano, rapidly rolled up their sleeves and put their shoulders to the wheel to quickly set up a devoted steering committee, organising fund-raising functions across Sydney.

Five in all that is.

The final Watson Fundraising Day has been scheduled for Sunday September the 10th.

Alex Robertson stated last night to ABSW: "We have planned this whole day as a 'Family Day'.

"There will be four Soccer matches played, there will be jumping castles for the kids, Bar b Qs - a total family fun day as Joe would want it."

Robertson went on to elaborate:

"At noon the first match will kick off between Scotland against Australia.

"Then we'll have Rangers vs Celtic with Liverpool then meeting Everton.

"We will also have an Under 9s match, Sans Souci vs Lindfield, a match in which one of Joe's own little boys will play," ended Robertson.

The first Fundraiser was staged on Saturday 12th of this month, a Trivia night held at the Ramsgate RSL. no less than 300 people crowded in and bid strongly at an auction.

On the same night, the NSW Soccer Federation held their Awards Night at which some $36,000 was raised in honour of Joe Watson.

Saturday the 19th saw 500 Scots and Englishmen crowd into the Coogee RSL where spirited bidding saw Kenny Wilson top the night in banging out a Rangers' Soccer shirt.

Former Sydney City left winger Willie Murray was contacted to organise some Soccer shirts.

Within three days Murray incredibly air-expressed shirts of Hearts, Hibernian, Celtic and of course Rangers, direct from Scotland.

Last Wednesday night at the Hakoah Club at Bondi Beach, former club players from 25 years back attended a cocktail party in honour of little Joey.

Three Hakoah Directors presented three personal cheques totalling no less than $30,000 to go towards Joey's medical costs.

The Hakoah evening was steeped with nostalgia as stars from the past filed into the Club. Alan Marnoch, Kevin Mullen, Robbie Fekete, Murray Barnes, Robertson, Pezzano, Johnny Watkiss, Johnny Warren (guest), Jean Paul de Marigny, were just a few of the super stars that attended.

Last Saturday night at Club Marconi, almost 600 people crowded into the Club's new auditorium for a Joe Watson Dinner-Auction.

During the afternoon, Soccer matches were played from noon through to six pm.

Every player had to pay $100 into the kitty a to play.

Former Watson team-mates at club level as well as playing with him for Australia, turned up to play in the afternoon then attend the Dinner later, all for their little mate Joey.

Steve O'Connor, Terry Greedy, Kevin Mullen, Johnny McKie, Peter Mullen, Kenny Wilson, Robertson, Pezzano, Murray Barnes, David Ratcliffe, John Kosmina, were just some spotted in the jam-packed auditorium.

Saturday Night at Club Marconi was just magnificent .

And with the meticulous Alex Robertson having tracked down former Sydney City's highly energised Soccer General manager David Childs, who flew down from Brisbane to act as the electrifying auctioneer, the evening was superb.

Joe Watson, you truly have hundreds of wonderful friends.

Eddie Thom son former Australian World Cup coach, Terry Greedy Australia's magnificent World Cup goalke per and living legend and Australia's World Cup right winger-playmaker Joey Watson.

Alex Robertson: Ice-cool sweeper and ace organiser.

Tony Pezzano: International custodian.

David Ratcliffe: Former Australian World Cup central marker.

Graham Arnold: Former Australian striker.

Frank Farina: Former Australian striker.

NSW Soccer Federation
P.O. Box 6024 Blacktown Business Centre, NSW. 2148. Telephone: 9629-1800 ı Fax: 9629-3770

— Divisions 1 Grand Final —

UNLUCKY HAJDUK WANDERERS BEATEN BY DULWICH HILL DOUBLE STRIKE

Hajduk Wanderers	0
Dulwich Hill	2

By Paul Goodwin

Dulwich Hill turned the tables on fierce rivals Hadjuk Wanderers in the 2000 Grand Final at Bankstown City's Jensen Park, after a torrid encounter which saw the largely Portuguese-supported club win 2-0.

Hadjuk had lost both premiership games to winners Dulwich Hill during the season, but gained some revenge by being first into the Grand Final when beating their adversaries 2-0 a fortnight back.

Lou Dounis: Involved in both goals.

They had no success, this time, with everything going wrong for them both before and during the game.

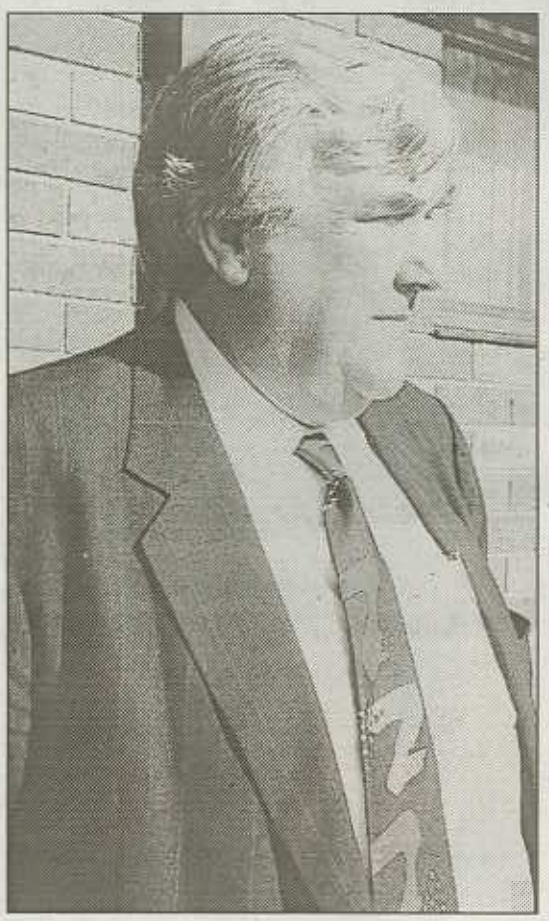
First, regular keeper Steve Tolios failed a late fitness test, leaving the way open for the return from injury of Darren Cross. Cross then suffered a bad shoulder injury and had to be replaced at half time.

By then Dulwich were already two goals to the good, with both being scored in similar fashion.

In the 17th minute an Eddie Briscoe corner from the left was nodded on at the near post by Lou Dounis for Rob Todorovski to slam home at the far post among a sea of legs.

Then, in the 40th, another corner from the same man was again flicked on by Dounis and nicely finished by Mal Bideau at the near post, with a clever touch.

A bruising second half saw nine yellow cards handed out and with three players already cautioned, two from Dulwich Hill were sent off with a third from Hadjuk shortly to follow.



NSWSF President Peter Gray was on hand to present the winners with their trophy.

Despite being reduced to nine men for a period Dulwich defended well and almost got away to add to their lead.

Hadjuk attacked relentlessly throughout the second half, but to no avail. Stout defending by defensive duo Andrew Stubbs and George Kalogeras, combined with the brilliance in goal of Peter Trajcevski, ensured that it was Dulwich captain Tom Pontidas and not his counterpart JJ Ellul who accepted the winners' trophy from NSW Soccer Federation President Peter Gray at the conclusion of the contest.

*Dulwich also triumphed in the Under 21s beating AC United 4-3 with two goals for the winning side coming in the last three minutes, while MSC Liverpool beat Rockdale City Suns 2-1 in the Under 18 fixture.

All three games were of high quality and exciting to watch for a crowd in excess of 900.

RESULTS

FEDERATION DIVISION ONE

GRAND FINAL

FIRST GRADE

Hajduk Wanderers 0 Dulwich Hill 2 (R Todorovski 17m, M Bideau 41m).

UNDER 21

AC United 3 Dulwich Hill 4.

UNDER 18

M.S.C. Liverpool 2 Rockdale City Suns 1.

DIVISION ONE – FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dulwich Hill	22	14	6	2	45	22	48
Hajduk Wanderers	22	15	2	5	42	21	47
Fraser Park	22	11	7	4	47	28	40
AC United	22	12	4	6	39	21	40
Rockdale City Suns	22	10	3	9	42	32	33
Stanmore Hawks	22	7	8	7	27	27	29
M.S.C. Liverpool	22	7	8	7	24	25	29
Hurstville City	22	7	5	10	29	34	26
Auburn United	22	6	4	12	31	48	22
Bathurst '75	22	6	4	12	27	52	22
Illawarra Lions	22	4	5	13	21	43	17
Ryde City Gunners	22	3	4	15	21	42	13

Grade U21

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AC United	22	13	6	3	74	19	45
Fraser Park	22	12	7	3	58	22	43
Ryde City Gunners	22	13	4	5	43	26	43
Hajduk Wanderers	22	11	8	3	69	16	41
Dulwich Hill	22	11	2	9	64	39	35
Stanmore Hawks	22	8	8	6	41	28	32
M.S.C. Liverpool	22	8	7	7	33	32	31
Bathurst '75	22	8	5	9	46	43	29
Hurstville City	22	7	6	9	41	32	27
Auburn United	22	6	2	14	28	88	20
Rockdale City Suns	22	5	3	14	28	58	18
Illawarra Lions	22	0	2	20	13	135	2

Grade U18

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
M.S.C. Liverpool	22	16	2	4	72	19	50
Stanmore Hawks	22	15	4	3	57	15	49
Rockdale City Suns	22	14	3	5	55	28	45
Hajduk Wanderers	22	13	5	4	45	17	44
AC United	22	13	5	4	47	20	44
Ryde City Gunners	22	14	2	6	54	28	44
Bathurst '75	22	8	3	11	54	38	27
Hurstville City	22	8	1	13	30	39	25
Dulwich Hill	22	7	2	13	28	43	23
Fraser Park	22	5	5	12	43	42	20
Auburn United	22	2	2	18	20	107	8
Illawarra Lions	22	0	0	22	16	124	0

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SOCCER FOOTBALL CLUB

Invites applications for the position of

FIRST GRADE COACH

For our NSW Soccer Federation Division 1 squad. Please contact Simon Philips on 9210 4077 or 0413 585 413 for information about applications.

We would also like to invite any interested players to attend selection trials for our U21 and U18 teams which will take place at:
10am on 2, 9 and 16 December 2000
St John's College Oval, Sydney University
(entry off Missenden Road)
For more details please contact Ben Docker on
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SCHOOL SOCCER

BILL TURNER CUP

By Greg Danvers

The LG Bill Turner Cup and Trophy have reached the final four and will be played at the home of NBN Soccer League premiers the Edgeworth Eagles at Jack McLaughlan Oval next week.

The prestigious high schools soccer competition has seen this year the introduction of the Bill Turner Trophy, for girl's sides of 15 years.

The Bill Turner Cup, played along the East Coast of Australia and bearing retired Lake Macquarie School teacher Bill Turner's name, is now in its twenty-second year.

Special guest at the final and to present the champions trophy will be Mr Steve Reid the National marketing manager of LG products. Mr Reid some years back was a winner, with the Hurstville High School, of the Commonwealth Bank (Soccer) Cup medal and is reportedly a soccer buff.

Victorian team Notre Dame of Shepparton has become the first Victorian team to qualify for the Bill Turner Cup semi finals and are expected to do well after being close to the semi's in the last few years.

Notre Dame will have tough opponents in Menai, from Sydney's south, who beat Westfield Sports High on a penalty shoot-out in the quarter-finals.

The final, on Wednesday September 6, originally clashed with the third round of the Newcastle Breakers Pre-Season competition.

"Lee Sterrey and the Breakers have rescheduled their third round for Thursday (September 7) in a move that is gratefully appreciated by the Bill Turner Cup committee," President Bill Turner said.

"The willingness of Lee Sterrey to move the pre-season game and eliminate a clash assists us in the promotion of school soccer."

THE DRAW:

LG Bill Turner Cup Semi Finals Tuesday September 5 at Jack McLaughlan Oval 6.00pm, Palm Beach Currumbin v Epping 7.30pm Menai v Notre Dame.

Bill Turner Trophy Semi Finals Tuesday September 5 at Jack McLaughlan Oval 3.00pm, Kincumber v South Grafton 4.15pm Westfield v Bathurst.

LG Bill Turner Cup Final Wednesday September 6 at Jack McLaughlan Oval at 7.30pm Bill Turner Trophy Final Wednesday September 6 at Jack McLaughlan Oval at 5.45pm

JUNIOR SOCCER

L-R Top Row: Diego Carbone, Vincent Leto, Christian Bucciarelli, Frank Speranza (coach), Joe La'lanca (Ass. Coach Manager), Blake Ferguson, Luis Carneiro, Michael Coiro.
L-R Bottom Row: Ozer Avci, Gaetano La'lanca, Daniel Gabrielli, Michael Carbone, Roberto Bonserio, Giorgio Speranza, Roberto Speranza, Johnny Panuccio (not pictured).

LEICHHARDT TIGERS Under 9's — 1

Leichhardt Tigers U9-1 were the toast of the club after their magnificent victory in the grand final of the Canterbury Association.

They were the only junior team within the club to win the minor premiership/grand final double within division one of their age group.

After losing the very first game of the season proper, Leichhardt Tigers won the following fifteen (15) games on the trot, including the major semi-final 2-1 and the grand final 3-1.

In doing so, the Tigers scored 53 goals and conceded just 7.

Their coaches, former club Youth League winners themselves, Frank Speranza and Joe La'lanca stress the importance of teamwork, discipline and a passion for the game as contributing to their success.

The future looks very bright if this team can stick together, and I'm certain that there is a budding Harry Kewell or Mark Viduka amongst them!!

FAMOUS PHOTOS

Nine-year-old Blake Ferguson met Brazil's Ronaldo when the Brazilian team were on tour here last year. The photo was taken at Joey's College and Blake's dream is to one day be like his idol. Well done Blake! I'm sure you'll get there soon.

Felipe Baccan is currently playing for Blacktown City Demons Under 21's who are the 2000 champions. Felipe is pictured here with Ronaldo when Brazil were here last year.

Have your photo taken with someone famous in soccer?
Even if it happened years ago, you can have the photo published in ABSW.
Send photos to — The Editor:

Australian and British Soccer Weekly

P.O. Box 155, Marrickville NSW 1475

Or E-mail the photo in JPEG format to

soccerweekly@hotmail.com

**All photos will be returned.*

STARS IN THE MAKING

ABSW's Mark Stavroulakis continues his weekly look at Junior Soccer in Australia.

Nicholas Stavroulakis

AT A GLANCE

Full Name:	Nicholas Stavroulakis
Club:	NSWIS
DOB:	30/4/85
Left/Right:	Right
Eye Colour:	Hazel
Hair Colour:	Light Brown
Height:	168cm
Weight:	59kg
Positions Played:	Anywhere In The Midfield

THE STATS & FACTS

Clubs Played At:
-U13 – U15 Sydney Olympic
-In the process of having his second year at the Institute

Age Started Playing Soccer: 4 years old

THE LOOK FORWARD

Career Highlight To Date: Winning three premierships and minor premierships with Olympic. Captaining that team and vice-captaining U15 NSW. Also getting selected for two Joeys camps.

Ambition: Try make the Australian team and to play professionally overseas

Words Of Advice: "Play to the best of your ability"

Best Advice Received: - "Play every game as if it were your last" *(Kelly Cross, NSW Institute Coach)*

PERSONALITY INSIGHT

Favourite Actor: Eddie Murphy
Favourite Actress: Sharon Stone

Top 5 Movies:
-Friday
-Coming To America
-Rocky IV
-Gone In 60 Seconds
-Rush Hour

Favourite Comedian: Eddie Murphy and Chris Tucker
If you could be a character from any movie who would you be? Michael Douglas in Basic Instinct
Best ever concert: Utopia at the Sydney dome

5 Cd's You Couldn't Do Without?
-Paul Van Dyk – Out There And Back
-Nik Fish – 007
-Trance Nation 3 – Mixed By Ferry Corsten
-Sasha – Global Underground
-Clubbers Guide To Ibiza 2000 – Mixed By Judge Jules

Favourite TV show: English Premier League
Favourite Cartoon Character: Homer Simpson

Dinner Party For 6, Who Would You Invite?
-Paul Van Dyk
-Chris Tucker
-Johan Cryuff
-Jennifer Lopez
-Pamela Anderson
-David Beckham

Entrée: Lasagna
Main Course: Steak Diane
Dessert: Chocolate Mudcake with Ice-cream

THE PEERS

Favourite Overseas Player: David Beckham
Favourite Overseas Team: Olympiakos
Most Admired Australian Player (Local Based): Paul Trimboli
Most Admired Australian Player (Overseas Based): Harry Kewell
Most Admired Defender: Paolo Maldini
Most Admired Midfielder: Zinedine Zidane
Most Admired Striker: Giovanni
Most Admired Goalkeeper: Peter Schmeichel
Hardest Opponent (Played): Esala Masi

Is this the Greatest NSW Youth Side Ever?

There have been many teams in the past that have done the unimaginable.

Winning finals, premierships, gaining a reputable name in the game of football. These teams are few, and one such team should be mentioned as probably one of the greatest New South Wales youth sides ever assembled.

Young players at the age of 13 are brought to one main level in NSW, and that is the Super Youth League. The 'cream of the crop' as they say, participate in a normal season, which also consists of a final series as well.

This year's Sydney Olympic Under 15's squad has been hailed as one the best youth sides in the history of the NSW Super Youth League. Winning a massive seven titles in three years makes this a 'dream team' in itself.

It all started in 1996, when a bunch of fresh young stars were just beginning their new careers in football. Bankstown Association was the stable which trained and nurtured seven young hopeful talents, who would later go onto bigger and better things at Olympic.

It was from this team that they learned spirit, courage and determination and one main thing to come out of it was that they were all mates and played for each other.

After two successful seasons at Bankstown, several players made the inaugural Under 13's Sydney Olympic squad where it was there that they were joined by other exciting stars.

Eduardo Moerbeck was the coach at that time, and it was under his leadership that this team first experienced a taste of glory. Taking out the premiership and Grand-Finals with ease, they later were announced as the State champions in '98.

The first year saw many young talents arise from this squad. The 'super team' only got better as time went on.

The following year they did it again, capturing the premiership and finals, in what was to be the win of all wins. Coached by former Olympic player Alex Lambropoulos, it was little wonder the team did so well as his added experience was more than enough to boost the squad's morale.

This young Olympic side got the exposure it needed in getting many players into the state squad sides that year. With all these exciting players on hand, Olympic's future looked bright.

This year, what was seen as a fairytale, became true. The 'dream team' did it again, capturing both titles and securing the nametag of being one of the most successful sides in youth history.

Five players from this squad took part in the recent Nationals and represented NSW at Parklea. Striker Michael De Meglio, defenders Dominic Hudap, Brett Studman, but it was two players that surely were hailed as the backbone of the Olympic squad that made a name for themselves.

Former Bankstown teammates Trent McClenahan and Nicholas Stavroulakis were the two who pretty much kept the squad together from day one. Nicholas captained the victorious Olympic team to three championships, three premierships and a state championship.

He also vice captained the NSW side, which won the Under 15 Nationals this year. On the other side, Trent captained NSW in the Nationals this year, and vice captained the victorious Olympic side.

It was little wonder these two players gained this recognition as consistent performances and above all a great team with great players, made their jobs that much easier.

Nicholas went on to dual register with the NSW Institute of Sport where he was named as the youngest player to play in the National youth league competition. He also had the honour of attending two Joeys camps and being one of the youngest alongside teammate Brett Studman.

It was all about team spirit and that was what made this team so special.

Winning all these championships wwas a sign of a squad with determination, and this was learned at a very young age.

Sydney Olympic had embarked on a gold mine of players, however, as players blossom, so do their competitors, and many such teams have signed on the players from this super squad.

It is quite sad that for three years, a team that grew together, played for each other would finally end up going their separate ways, but that's soccer.

However, the memories and the triumphs of this team will never be forgotten, and that is why this young Sydney Olympic side will always be known as the 'dream team'.

Sydney Olympic U15's": Seven titles in three years for the 'dream team'.

Nick Stavroulakis

Trent McClenahan

Trent McClenahan

AT A GLANCE

Full Name:	Trent McClenahan
Club:	Sydney Olympic
DOB:	4/2/85
Left/Right:	Right
Eye Colour:	Brown
Hair Colour:	Brown
Height:	172cm
Weight:	60kg
Positions Played:	Sweeper

THE STATS & FACTS

Clubs Played At:
U13-U15 Sydney Olympic

Age Started Playing Soccer: 5 years old

THE LOOK FORWARD

Career Highlight To Date: Winning the premiership and Grand-Finals three years in a row with Sydney Olympic. Captaining NSW three times and winning the nationals this year with NSW

Ambition: To play overseas and represent Australia
Words Of Advice: "Never give up"
Best Advice Received: "Always try your hardest" *(Father, Garry)*

PERSONALITY INSIGHT

Favourite Actor: Jim Carrey
Favourite Actress: Katie Holmes

Top 5 Movies:
-Friday
-Gone In 60 Seconds
-Road Trip
-Delirious
-Rush Hour

Favourite Comedian: Jim Carrey
If you could be a character from any movie who would you be? Nicholas Cage in Gone In 60 Seconds
Best ever concert: The Vengaboys at the Horden Pavilion

5 Cd's You Couldn't Do Without?
-Skitz Mix 7
-Wild 6
-Wild 7
-Scott Martin's copied CD
-Boomfunk Mc's - Freestyler

Favourite TV show: The Simpsons
Favourite Cartoon Character: Bart Simpson

Dinner Party For 6, Who Would You Invite?
-Lothar Matthaus
-Simon Colosimo
-Girlfriend
-Alicia Silverstone
-Katie Holmes
-Pele

Entrée: Spaghetti Bolognese
Main Course: Malaysian Creamy Satay
Dessert: Cheesecake

THE PEERS

Favourite Overseas Player: Lothar Matthaus
Favourite Overseas Team: Liverpool
Most Admired Australian Player (Local Based): Simon Colosimo
Most Admired Australian Player (Overseas Based): Paul Okon
Most Admired Defender: Franz Beckenbauer
Most Admired Midfielder: Zinedine Zidane
Most Admired Striker: Michael Owen
Most Admired Goalkeeper: Jose Chilavert
Hardest Opponent (Played): Brett Holman

SOCCER WOMAN

By Janene Mar

INTO OLYMPIC MODE

The Sydney 2000 Olympic Games are even closer than the countdown clock suggests.

Apart from the fact that Women's Football is the very first event of the entire Games on the evening of 13 September, the Matildas essentially transform into the Australian Olympic Team — Women's Football from this coming Monday 4 September.

That is the day the Team moves into the Olympic sub-Village in Canberra. the Parkroyal Hotel. Up until this point, apart from the brief ceremony when the Olympic Team was announced by dual Olympic swimming gold medallist John Devitt, the group has had little first-hand opportunity to really understand what it's like to compete in an Olympic Games and to be an Olympian. Esconsed in their self-contained world at the AIS, little has changed in their daily routine of training, meetings, video sessions.

Even for the period the Team remains in Canberra during the Olympics, they will barely touch the surface of what all the fuss is about until they hit Sydney.

Hence, the Team will venture north for three days commencing September 7 to attend the official Team Processing Session and to feel the vibe of life in the Olympic Village.

Team Processing will involve a ceremony and briefings as well as outfitting of the full Olympic uniform.

Nothing could remind you more that you are one part of an entire Australian Olympic Team and the spectacle of the Olympic Games than living in the Olympic Village.

Making new friends with fellow Australian teammates from a myriad of other sports, some big name athletes, and meeting people from all corners of the globe, some from countries you've never heard of, and all the best in their field.

There are new rules to abide by, particular protocols to follow, the media attention, the ceremonies and receptions — everything that surrounds the most significant sporting event on earth and you are in the middle of it.

Yet all the while, needing to keep your feet firmly planted on the ground, focused on the job at hand. Needing to somehow keep things as normal to routine as possible within such an extraordinary environment in order to be able to perform at peak on the day, both as individuals and as a team.

For your performance on the pitch will hopefully be up there amongst the best of Olympic memories, knowing that you performed to the absolute best of your ability, and gave your all to the Team.

KEY DATES

Mon 4 Sept	Enter Olympic sub-Village in Canberra
Thu 7 Sept	Travel to Sydney
	Team Processing Session
	Enter Olympic Village
Sun 10 Sept	Return to Canberra
Wed 13 Sept	Australia v Germany, Bruce Stadium
Thu 14 Sept	Travel to Sydney
Fri 15 Sept	Opening Ceremony
Sat 16 Sept	Australia v Sweden, Sydney Football Stadium
Tue 19 Sept	Australia v Brazil, Sydney Football Stadium
Sun 24 Sept	Semifinals, Canberra or Sydney
Thu 28 Sept	Bronze Medal Match and Final, Sydney Football Stadium
Sun 1 Oct	Closing Ceremony

Armchair Viewing

If you have a good enough excuse that means you can't get to Bruce Stadium and Sydney Football Stadium in person to cheer on our girls at the Olympics, then don't despair — there is a way you can still catch the action in full and live.

C7, pay television owned by Channel 7 and therefore rights holders to coverage of the Olympic Games, will be airing all of Australia's women's football matches - live, uninterrupted full-match coverage.

In addition to the Network's planned broadcast television coverage of the Games, C7 will produce two subscription channels for Foxtel, Optus TV, Austar and Access1 purely for the Olympics over 16 days, 24 hours a day. C7's Olympic channels will be the first sports channel to be seen on all three subscription TV platforms, so if you are already connected to pay television, you have the opportunity to take in this special additional Olympic coverage.

C7 will have full match coverage of Australian Team soccer, hockey, and basketball. Complete action equestrian, boxing, water polo, rowing, volleyball, tennis, softball, triathlon, cycling, sailing, shooting, judo, wrestling, archery, baseball, and trampolining will be aired, plus highlights of swimming and athletics.

Sun 24 Sept
5.30-7.30pm Semifinal - Sydney Live
Thu 28 Sept
5.00-7.00pm Bronze Medal Match Live
Fri 29 Sept
7.00-9.00am Final Delayed

As C7's Olympic licence does not allow commencement of transmission before 16 September, women's football's first round of matches will be aired on C7's regular channel (available on Optus in metropolitan areas, and Austar in regional areas).

Wed 13 Sept
Australia v Germany and Sweden v Brazil
Thu 14 Sept
USA v Norway

It is hoped that Australia's first match on 13 September may perhaps also be screened, at least as extended highlights, on free-to-air Channel 7, especially as football is the only sport played that day. After that date, it is most likely to be dependent on how well Australia is performing, and the amount of public interest, that will help decide how much women's football will be covered on free-to-air.

Subscription to C7's Olympic package costs $54.95 if you get in before midnight 31 August, and $76.95 from 1 September. To subscribe, contact your pay TV provider -

Can the Matilda's score gold next month?

C7 Schedule - Women's Soccer

Sat 16 Sept
5.30-7.30pm Australia v Sweden Live
Sun 17 Sept
5.30-7.30pm USA v China Live
Tue 19 Sept
5.30-7.30pm Australia v Brazil Live
Wed 20 Sept
5.30-7.30pm USA v Nigeria Live

C7 Olympics		C7 Games	
(Cable)			
Foxtel	Ch 40	Ch 41	131 999
(Satellite)			
Foxtel	Ch 31	Ch 32	131 999
Optus	Ch 31	Ch 32	1300 720 091
Austar	Ch 35	Ch 36	132 492

Access1 Televised through desktop PC 1300 550 220

NATIONAL LEAGUE NOT FAR AWAY

The 2000/2001 version of the national league kicks off Friday 3 November.

This coming season will be the fifth season of the top domestic competition which remains an important selection platform to Australian and Youth Team honours.

This year's league will be a compact competition, five rounds held over three separate weekends followed by a semifinal and final.

The championship decider is scheduled for Saturday 16 December.

Franchises for this season have been offered to the member State associations of ACT, New South Wales, Northern NSW, Queensland, South Australia, and Victoria — the same States as last year. It is still expected that the ITC Coaches will take on the role of Head Coach in the relevant States.

The AWSA holds the option of a Player Draft to incorporate suitable players from the remaining three States — Northern Territory, Tasmania, and Western Australia. Such players would be nominated by the National Coach.

ROUND ONE
Fri 3 Nov
NNSW v VIC Sydney
Fri 3 Nov
QLD v SA Sydney
Fri 3 Nov
NSW v ACT Sydney
ROUND TWO
Sun 5 Nov
SA v NNSW Sydney
Sun 5 Nov
ACT v QLD Sydney
Sun 5 Nov
VIC v NSW Sydney
ROUND THREE
Fri 17 Nov
VIC v QLD Canberra
Fri 17 Nov
NSW v NNSW Canberra
Fri 17 Nov
ACT v SA Canberra
ROUND FOUR
Sun 19 Nov
QLD v NSW Canberra
Sun 19 Nov
SA v VIC Canberra
Sun 19 Nov
NNSW v ACT Canberra
ROUND FIVE
Sat 2 Dec
SA v NSW Adelaide
Sat 2 Dec
VIC v ACT Melbourne
Sat 2 Dec
NNSW v QLD NNSW
SEMIFINAL
Sat 9 Dec
2nd Place v 3rd Place tbc
FINAL
Sat 16 Dec
1st Place v Winner of Semi
tbc

VICTORIAN SOCCER FEDERATION

Applicants are invited to apply for the following:

WOMEN'S SOCCER POSITIONS

- **Head Coach**
- **Assistant Head Coach**

For a Victorian Soccer Federation Intensive Training Centre (ITC) program with affiliated status to the Victorian Institute of Sport. We require the services of two highly qualified and motivated coaches with sound knowledge and experience of women's developmental programs. The position is to begin 15/09/00 and run through to 01/05/01 with the opportunity to extend to 01/05/02 dependent on funding and performance review. A competitive salary dependent on qualifications will be offered to the successful candidates.

Closing Date: 31st August 2000

Application in writing to the:
Coaching and Development Manager
Victorian Soccer Federation
236 Dorcas Street,
South Melbourne. VIC. 3205

Info@soccervictoria.org.au or by facsimile
(03) 9682 9777

Akers withdraws from Olympics

Legendary US midfielder Michelle Akers announced her withdrawal from the Olympic Team last Thursday, finally submitting to a shoulder injury and chronic fatigue syndrome.

Team USA will miss the awesome physical presence, aerial deadliness, unflagging skill on the ball, and dominant playmaking of the inspirational Akers in the centre of midfield as they look to defend their Olympic crown.

Akers first dislocated her shoulder last March and underwent surgery but the road back has been a most difficult one.

Missing most of USA's internationals this year, she finally came back for the European tour in July to earn a spot on the Olympic 18. But when Akers reinjured the shoulder against Russia on 15 August, this proved to be the final blow.

This setback was the last of many which hampered her career, suffering regular lengthy periods on the sidelines through injury and illness.

Her long-time battle with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome has endured since as far back as 1992. Akers' ability to come back time and again to the top team in the world is testament to her mental and physical toughness.

"After winning the gold medal in 1996, I promised myself to never again play in the condition I was in during those Olympic Games," said Akers. "It has been a hard fought year, and the decision not to go to Sydney was just as agonising, but I have huge peace in knowing I fought to the very end and have nothing else to give."

As much as it is a cliché, this is truly the end of an era in American and international soccer. Akers actually played in the USA's first ever international back in 1985 against Italy, the only player to have experienced the full history of the game into the 21st century. In her 15-year career, she has amassed gold medals from the 1991 and 1999 World Cups, and the Atlanta Olympic Games. The Sydney 2000 Olympics was to be her last hurrah from a stirling career.

The 34-year-old was the Golden Boot winner (top scorer) and Silver Ball awardee (second best player) at the 1991 World Cup. She scored both her team's goals in the 1991 Final win over Norway. Her contribution to last year's World Cup win was similarly dominating, and earned her the Bronze Ball.

One of just four players to score over 100 international goals, Akers retires with the incredible strikerate of 105 goals from 155 caps.

QUEENSLAND SOCCER FEDERATION
"Perry Park" Abbotsford Road, Mayne Brisbane 4006.
Phone: (07) 3252 5327 • Fax: (07) 3252 1137

XXXX LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	GF	AG	Pts
Brisbane City	27	18	5	4	57	18	59
Brisbane Lions	27	16	7	4	55	27	55
Rochedale Rov	27	14	4	9	49	38	46
Gold Coast City	27	13	5	9	46	31	44
IPSW Knights	27	12	1	14	33	36	37
Wynnum	27	10	7	10	38	43	37
T'wmba Raiders	27	7	8	12	29	46	29
B'berg Waves	27	6	9	12	25	37	27
Taringa Rovers	27	6	6	15	25	44	24
Mt Gravatt	27	4	6	17	29	66	18

ROUND 27

Mt Gravatt .....1 B'berg Waves 3
T'wmba Raiders .....3 Rochedale Rov 2
IPSW Knights .....0 Brisbane Lions 1
Taringa Rovers .....2 Gold Coast City 1
Brisbane City .....1 Wynnum 1

DIVISION ONE - NORTH

	P	W	D	L	GF	AG	Pts
Uni of Qld	24	17	3	4	71	29	54
Mitchelton	24	15	3	6	58	32	48
North Star	24	14	3	7	66	32	45
Pine Rivers Utd	24	13	6	5	50	29	45
The Gap	24	11	2	11	50	43	35
Newmarket	24	8	9	7	42	39	33
North Pine	24	9	4	11	43	54	31
Albany Creek	24	2	6	16	32	81	12
Grange Thistle	24	0	2	22	11	84	2

ROUND 27

Mitchelton .....3 Albany Creek 1
North Star .....1 Pine Rivers Utd 4
The Gap .....1 Grange Thistle 0
North Pine .....2 Uni of Qld 6
Newmarket - Bye

DIVISION ONE - SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Eastern Subs	24	16	6	2	77	26	54
Souths Utd	24	11	9	4	69	19	42
Rocklea Utd	24	12	5	7	58	36	41
Acacia Ridge	23	12	4	7	49	38	40
Olympic Utd	23	10	6	7	60	35	36
Capalaba	24	9	5	10	41	48	32
Redlands Utd	24	7	5	12	39	50	26
Slacks Creek	24	6	6	12	35	52	24
Beenleigh	24	1	0	23	21	145	3

ROUND 27

Capalaba .....1 Rocklea Utd 2
Eastern Subs .....2 Redlands Utd 2
Beenleigh .....0 Souths Utd 13
Olympic Utd v Acacia Ridge (Play 5pm tonight)
Slacks Creek - bye

STATE AGAINST STATE

NSW and Queensland set to go head to head

By Glenn Davis

The long overdue return of interstate football between Queensland and New South Wales at Perry Park on Sunday has again ignited calls for a full-blown Sheffield Shield type State of origin competition between the major States.

It's been several years since the mighty New South Wales played Queensland, but it seems these two States are the only ones interested in representative football for State league players.

A Sheffield Shield type competition was first mooted several years ago, but it's now got the backing of Queensland coach Miron Bleiberg.

Bleiberg said the State Of Origin concept was hugely successful in rugby league and had the potential to be a major success in soccer if all States participated, not just a few.

Bleiberg and many others in Queensland believe the interstate competition could dovetail perfectly into the summer national league but it would need the blessing of NSL clubs.

"There's two ways it could be played," Bleiberg said.

"The first is it could be played between the States to reward State league players at the end of the season or second, it could be played with national league players during the national league season under a State Of Origin concept.

"The national league may need to have a week off but it would work well."

The highly astute Bleiberg had extensive experience in the national league coaching Heidleberg United and Melbourne Croatia before he moved to Brisbane where he was in charge of Brisbane United for two years.

He then coached in the local premier league for several seasons winning three Grand Finals in Brisbane, two with Lions and one with North Star.

Meanwhile Bleiberg, whose Queensland side will play a trial against Brisbane Strikers at Perry Park on Wednesday night, is confronted with a dilemma choosing his final Queensland line-up for Sunday's clash with New South Wales.

Bleiberg named players from every premier league side in his original 30-man Queensland squad and was subsequently criticised by Brisbane Lions coach John Ogden for "cheapening" the Maroon jersey.

Bleiberg, who claimed Ogden's remarks were out or order, has reduced his squad to 22 players but won't be able to name his final starting line-up until the morning of the State game due to the "unofficial" semi-final matches being played on Saturday night.

"Unfortunately I've got players in this so-called unofficial semi-final series the night before and I'll probably have to choose players not involved," he said.

"The side I pick probably won't be the strongest but it will be the fittest and toughest."

Bleiberg dismissed Ogden's criticism of his selections as well as his criticism of officials for choosing an open age State team to play the Australian Olympic team in warm-up matches.

Ogden said a golden opportunity had been missed to match up a State Under 23 side against the Olyroos and claimed there was no-one in soccer with any foresight.

However, Bleiberg said his intentions in selecting players from every club in his original 30-man squad was a marketing tactic aimed to get all clubs interested in the exhibition State game.

"I never said they'd be an even spread of players from all clubs in the final team I select," he said.

"My aim is to help all players and as far as the Under-23 age limit is concerned. Why should players be prevented from playing for their State because of their age?

"I'd like nothing better than to see some of these players go on and perhaps play with the Brisbane Strikers because they were given the opportunity to play for their State," he said.

Bleiberg believed the inter-State clash would be a professional battle to see which State league - Brisbane or Sydney - was the strongest.

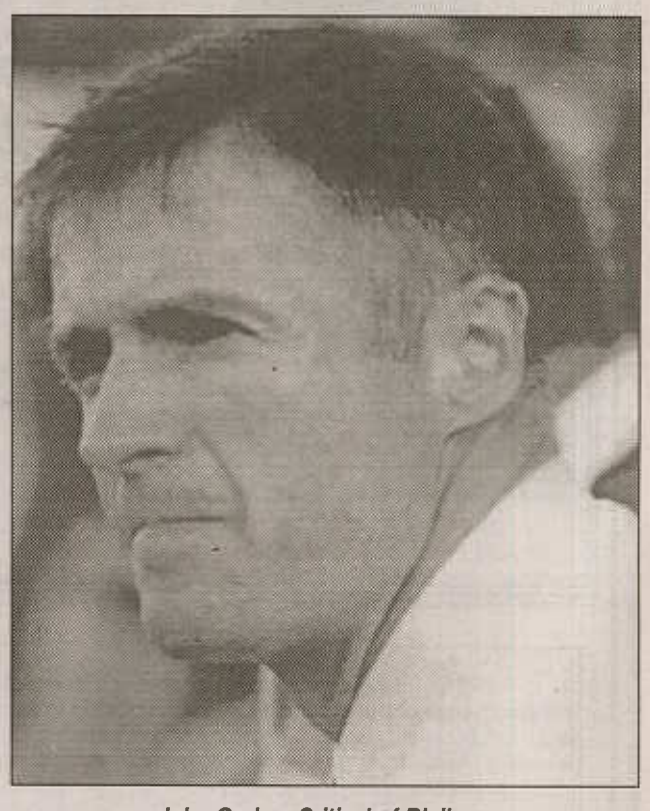
"From a players point of view it is very important because coaches from the national league clubs looking for players this season will know which league is the stronger."

Meanwhile the final round of the premier league season concluded last weekend with a few upsets but with no change to the final four.

Brisbane City, who celebrated the premiership last week, were held to a 1-1 draw by Wynnum, Toowoomba Raiders upset Rochedale 3-2, while Taringa scored a goal in each half to down Gold Coast 2-1.

Predictable victories went to Bundaberg with a 3-1 win over wooden spooners Mt Gravatt while Brisbane Lions scored a second half goal to beat Ipswich 1-0.

Miron Bleiberg: Queensland State coach.



John Ogden: Critical of Bleiberg.

QLD SQUAD

Demetri Theohari, Vedran Becirbegovic, Barry Wilkinson (Brisbane City); Chris Day, Darren Sime, Danny Britton, Royce Brownlie (Brisbane Lions); Damian Harris, Bard Ditton, Danny Stowers, Matt Olley, Ross Davidson (Rochedale); Warren Allen, Adam Evans, Steve Fitzsimmons, Jamie Irwin (Gold Goast City); Anthony Roche (Wynnum), Jason Lucas, Ken Caldwell, Peter McKendrick, Peter Hinks (Ipswich Knights), Craig Barnes, Craig Collins, Francis Cosson (Taringa Rovers); Tony Roebuck (Bundaberg); Cameron Williams, Colin Hackwood, Trevor Gilliland (Toowoomba Raiders.

WORLD

ITALY

Feyenoord's Cruz joins Bologna

Serie A side Bologna said last week thay had signed Argentine forward Julio Cruz from Dutch club Feyenoord for an undisclosed fee.

Bologna said on their official website Cruz had signed a four-year contract in Rotterdam earlier in the day. He was now due to arrive in Italy for medical tests.

Cruz played for Feyenoord for three seasons after moving from Argentina where he played for Banfield and River Plate.

SWISS STRIKER JOINS NAPOLI

Swiss striker David Sesa joined newly-promoted Serie A side Napoli from Lecce on Sunday for 14 billion lire ($6.56 million).

Sesa signed a five-year contract with the former Italian champions and then immediately took part in a training session at their pre-season base in Fiuggi, southern Italy.

He was expected to make his debut in a friendly against European Cup winners Real Madrid in Spain on Monday.

Sesa, the son of Italian emigrants who support Napoli, played for Lecce for two seasons after joining them from Swiss side Servette in 1998.

RUSSO WRITES

By Joe Russo

As the English Premier League started recently, one couldn't help but notice the wide variety of foreigners that are gracing that league and amongst them are several Italians of note.

Chelsea is obviously the Italian team in the Premier League. Starting with Manager, Gianluca Vialli, followed by players Christian Panucci, Roberto Di Matteo and Gianfranco Zola.

Derby County have Stefano Eranio, West Ham Utd have Paolo Di Canio, Bradford City have recruited Benito Carbone and Everton have Alessandro Pistone.

Vialli was capped 59 times for Italy, scored 19 goals and had a very distinguished career as a striker at Sampdoria, Juventus and Chelsea.

He was one of the great players of the modern era and, at only 36, will surely be a top-notch future coach in the Serie A. He moved into the managerial ranks when he took over from Ruud Gullit a few seasons ago.

Panucci is the new recruit this year from Inter and is the very accomplished and stylish 27-year-old defender. He formerly played with AC Milan and Real Madrid and must still be in calculations for a spot in the national team.

Panucci's claim to fame must surely be his extraordinary falling out with former national coach, Arrigo Sacchi. Sacchi claimed that Panucci lacked table manners!

Di Matteo is the 30-year-old, Swiss born and raised, midfielder who had a very good stint of four years at Lazio and with the Italian national team. He still has a lot to offer.

Zola needs no introduction. At 34, he has had a very distinguished career in the Serie A and with the Italian national side.

His Serie A debut was in 1989 with Napoli, where he was hailed as the 'new Maradona' and where he played for four seasons, before moving to Parma for another four and then onto Chelsea when he fell out with then Parma (and now Juventus) coach, Carlo Ancelotti.

Napoli only this year tried everything to lure him back to their fold, but the little Sardinian preferred to remain in London.

Eranio is the 'forgotten Italian' in the Premier. He is a classy, 34-year-old midfielder who played 18 times for Italy and scored three goals.

In the Serie A he had a distinguished career with Genoa before he moved to AC Milan, where he spent five seasons.

Di Canio spent approximately a decade in the Serie A with a variety of clubs, namely Lazio, Juventus, Napoli and AC Milan.

The 32-year-old also had a few seasons in Scotland, before making his name in the Premier League.

He is arguably the most valuable West Ham player and one of the real 'class acts' of the Premier League. However, it was never like this for him in Italy. He was always just considered a reliable midfielder who never set the world on fire.

Pistone is a former Inter defender but the 25-year-old was never, by any stretch of the imagination, one of their stars. He will be lucky to hold down a regular starting position in Walter Smith's Everton side.

Finally, there's Carbone - the new Bradford recruit. In England he has had stints with Sheffield Wednesday and Aston Villa, but they were not that long.

It was the same story for the 29-year-old in Italy where he rarely lasted for more than a season at a club.

His last Serie A club was Inter but he also had stints with Torino and Napoli. In the lower Italian divisions he played for Reggina, Casertana and Ascoli. It remains to be seen whether or not he will see out his contract with Bradford.

▽▽▽▽

It's over before it has even started for Inter in the Champions League. Last week's 0-0 draw at the San Siro in Milan against Helsinborg, means that Inter is out of the Champions League.

So much was expected of Inter in this tournament this year, but it was obviously not meant to be.

Little wonder that the coach, Marcello Lippi, opened the after-match press conference by stating that, "it was his lowest moment since he joined Inter". Unfortunately, for Inter supporters, he is certainly correct!

Betting probe opened into Italian Cup match

The Italian Football Federation (FIGC) said last week it had opened a probe into a domestic cup match that was the subject of suspiciously heavy betting.

The match, a first round group three tie between Serie A side Atalanta Bergamo and Second Division Pistoiese, ended 1-1.

Atalanta scored at the end of the first half and Pistoiese equalised three minutes from time.

Atalanta qualified for the second round.

Snai, one of the organisers of betting on Italian football matches, told the Italian Olympic Committee (CONI), which oversees sport in the country, that it had registered suspiciously heavy betting on the game.

Many of the bets were for a 1-0 scoreline at halftime and a fulltime score of 1-1, Snai said.

CONI passed the information to the FIGC, which opened an inquiry.

Italy announce squad for World Cup qualifier against Hungary

Italy coach Giovanni Trapattoni named the following 22-man squad for a World Cup Group Eight qualifier against Hungary in Budapest on September 3:

Goalkeepers: Francesco Toldo (Fiorentina), Christian Abbiati (AC Milan).

Defenders: Daniele Adani (Fiorentina), Mark Iuliano (Juventus), Alessandro Nesta, Paolo Negro and Giuseppe Pancaro (all Lazio), Paolo Maldini (AC Milan), Fabio Cannavaro (Parma).

Midfielders: Angelo Di Livio (Fiorentina), Luigi Di Biagio (Inter Milan), Gianluca Zambrotta (Juventus), Roberto Baronio (Lazio), Demetrio Albertini, Massimo Ambrosini and Gennaro Gattuso (all AC Milan), Stefano Fiore (Udinese).

Giovanni Trapattoni: First match in charge.

Forwards: Alessandro Del Piero and Filippo Inzaghi (both Juventus), Francesco Totti, Vincenzo Montella and Marco Delvecchio (all AS Roma).

Lazio favourites for Champions League

Lazio are 5-1 favourites to win the Champions League this season, according to London bookmakers William Hill.

Manchester United were installed as 6-1 joint second favourites with holders Real Madrid.

5-1 Lazio
6-1 Manchester United & Real Madrid
13-2 Juventus
8-1 Barcelona
11-1 Bayern Munich
12-1 AC Milan
14-1 Valencia
16-1 Arsenal
20-1 Galatasaray
25-1 Deportivo Coruna, Monaco & Paris St Germain
28-1 Rangers
33-1 Bayer Leverkusen
50-1 PSV Eindhoven & Olympique Lyon
66-1 Leeds, Dynamo Kiev, Sporting Lisbon & Olympiakos
80-1 Hamburg SV, Spartak Moscow, Anderlecht & Rosenborg Trondheim
125-1 Panathinaikos
150-1 Besiktas, Sparta Prague & Sturm Graz
200-1 Helsingborg
250-1 Heerenveen
300-1 Shaktar Donetsk.

Rueful Inter watch draw from the sidelines

Inter Milan watched the Champions League draw unfold with only passing interest last week after yet another failure to live up to their heavyweight reputation.

While city rivals AC Milan were being plucked from the hat with Barcelona, Real Madrid and Manchester United at the UEFA draw in Monaco, Inter were left to reflect on their defeat by Sweden's Helsingborg in the qualifiers.

The club's 0-0 draw at home earlier in the week saw them beaten 1-0 on aggregate.

When the European Cup final comes to the San Siro Stadium on May 23 next year Inter will be an absent host.

It is years since Inter made an impact in Europe's flagship competition. Their three UEFA Cup triumphs over the past decade serve only to highlight how often they have had to accept a berth in Europe's secondary tournaments as compensation.

It is now 11 years since Inter won the Serie A title and earned the right to appear in the Champions League as champions.

It is 18 years since they won the Italian Cup and a full 35 years since the uncompromising Inter sides forged by Helenio Herrera lifted the second of their consecutive European Cups.

Ronaldo: His Inter miss out again.

ABSW

WORLD PREMIER LEAGUE

Leed defender Olivier Dacourt celebrates his goal with teammate Lee Bowyer.

ASTON VILLA 1 CHELSEA 1

Belgian striker Luc Nilis put Villa ahead with a brilliant goal in the 10th minute, flicking the ball up on the left side of the box and volleying it into the right-hand corner.

Chelsea equalised with a powerful header from Frenchman Marcel Desailly at a corner in the 31st.

Norwegian Tore Andre Flo had a great chance to get the winner for Chelsea just before the end but his chip from the right-hand side of the box missed the target.

ARSENAL 5 CHARLTON ATHLETIC 3

Arsenal, unbeaten by Charlton since 1956, had to fight back from 2-1 and 3-2 down to take the points, with Patrick Vieira, sent off twice in the Gunners' first two games, team mate Thierry Henry and Charlton's Andy Hunt all scoring twice.

Vieira, set to begin a five-match ban, scored after 19 and 61 minutes. Brazilian left back Silvinho made the game safe with one minute left.

BRADFORD CITY 0 LEICESTER CITY 0

Bradford, who beat Chelsea 2-0 in their last outing, were held to a dire goalless stalemate by Leicester City, the only Premier League side yet to concede a goal this season.

EVERTON 2 DERBY COUNTY 2

Everton looked to have sealed the match with a 2-0 lead by half-time only for the visitors to fight back and share the points.

Joe Max Moore's cross allowed Francis Jeffers to tap in the first and Danish international Thomas Gravesen then scored his first goal for the club.

Dean Sturridge, after 52 minutes, and Branko Strupar, after 68 for his third goal in three matches, forced the draw.

IPSWICH TOWN 1 SUNDERLAND 0

Meeting Sunderland for the first time in the Premier League, the newly-promoted home side went ahead after 52 minutes when Titus Bramble finished a run from deep with a fine, right-foot shot.

Sunderland, who beat Arsenal in their first game of this campaign, had their moments but failed to level.

MANCHESTER CITY 1 COVENTRY CITY 2

Coventry, who claimed their first away win in 16 months against Southampton last Wednesday, made it two in a row.

A blunder by City's Richard Edghill leading to a 23rd minute own goal, put them ahead and recent signing Craig Bellamy made it 2-0 with his second in successive matches. Kevin Horlock grabbed a consolation with 12 minutes left.

MIDDLESBROUGH 1 LEEDS UNITED 2

The last four meetings between the clubs had not produced a goal but Leeds midfielder Lee Bowyer changed that with a shot from the edge of the area after just six minutes and Alan Smith made it two with his fifth in four games after 12 minutes.

Michael Bridges should have made it three after he beat several players only to shoot weakly at goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer and Middlesbrough, who began the day at the top of the table, made it an exciting finish with an 82nd minute goal from Phil Stamp.

NEWCASTLE UNITED 2 TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR 0

An end-to-end match full of incident ended in Newcastle's favour.

Gary Speed got on to the end of a long ball as the defence was caught square and lobbed the ball home for the first after nine minutes and Daniel Cordone, with his second in two games, sealed the game after 66 minutes.

SOUTHAMPTON 3 LIVERPOOL 3

Michael Owen scored twice only for the home team to fight back from 3-0 down with three goals in the last 18 minutes.

Aston Villa's Alpay Osalan holds off Chelsea's Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink.

Czech Vladimir Smicer set up all of Liverpool's goals but Marians Pahars of Southampton ended with the biggest smile, scoring his second in injury time to grab a point.

WEST HAM UNITED 2 MANCHESTER UNITED 2

Alex Ferguson's team, now unbeaten in 17 league matches, were left kicking themselves after conceding two goals in the last four minutes.

United went ahead after just six minutes when England international David Beckham scored his second of the season with a 25-metre free-kick.

Igor Stimac missed a golden chance at the other end straight after the break before Andy Cole made it two after 49 minutes.

Paolo di Canio and Davor Suker struck for West Ham in the 86th and 89th minutes.

David Beckham celebrates a fantastic goal against West Ham. Beckham's screamer was not enough as Manchester were held 2-2 by the Hammers at Upton Park.

MURPHY'S LAW

By Julian Murphy

The English Premier League has opened in a blaze of red. Referees are refusing to be intimidated and, consequently, have sent a number of players from the field. Managers are fuming, the media is crowing, yes football is back.

Eight red cards in five days may seem a little excessive but it is not that surprising at the start of a season. And is it necessarily a bad thing?

Referees are under the hammer but it is important that they stand their ground. Some of the most unsettling images from last season were of referees being verbally abused and man handled by irate players.

When Manchester United hosted Middlesbrough at Old Trafford ref Andy D'Urso was hounded from the centre of the pitch to the corner flag by Roy Keane and Co. after awarding a penalty. In the return game at the Riverside Stadium it was the Boro players who lost the plot after Quinton Fortune scored from an 'offside' position. Replays confirmed that the linesman's call was correct.

Referees want to establish their authority before any dissenting pattern can be set by the players. It will be interesting to see how often the new ten-yard rule is utilised. Players are fighting for first team spots and, as a result, go a little to far on certain occasions. The early spate of card brandishing should settle down over the next few weeks.

This brings me to Arsenal's Patrick Vieira. In a display that would make Welsh hard man Vinnie Jones proud, Vieira has been given an early shower in Arsenal's first two Premier League outings. The lanky Frenchman may have been hard done by on both occasions but the squealing that has accompanied the decisions has been ridiculous.

Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger believes the petulant Vieira is targeted by both referees and opposition players because of his in-your-face style. His record in the English game would suggest he has brought not a small amount of it on himself.

He is second to the legendary Jones in the all time Premier send-off list. Jones saw red on seven occasions and Vieira has now done so on six. In a much shorter time I might add. In the last couple of years Vieira has spat at West Ham's Neil Ruddock, flicked Sheffield Wednesday fans the bird and elbowed a Charlton opponent in the face.

In the second game against Liverpool Vieira had to be restrained by team mates after clashing with Jamie Carragher. Both players received cautions. He received a second booking shortly afterwards for a two footed challenge on Dieter Hamann.

Although he did win the ball he had been charging around like a demented Chicken after his first card. Of course the ref had his eye on him.

All the hoo-ha is certain to make life tough at Highbury during September. With Petit and Overmars now plying their trade in Spain, Vieira is arguably the Gunners most important midfielder. They will now be without him for five games, including crucial fixtures against title rivals Manchester United and Chelsea.

The most disappointing thing about the whole sorry saga has been the talk, I guess you could say threats, emanating from Highbury and elsewhere regarding Vieira's future. Wenger, Petit and current team mate Thierry Henry have said they wouldn't be surprised if Vieira quit English football as a result of all this so called 'rough treatment'.

It all smacks of King Whiner Shane Warne to me. The Aussie cricketer threatened to quit playing after the Cricket World Cup when his position in the team came under scrutiny. He moaned and bleated to anyone who would listen about being under appreciated and whether it 'was all worth it'. I suggest he never planned on retiring, he just wanted everyone to reassure him that he was indeed being badly treated.

Last year Vieira claimed to be a changed man after spending several weeks on the sideline for his poor behaviour. "I used to go to training every day yet I could not play. That's when you really miss it". Warne should have just proved his critics wrong on the pitch, so should poor Pat.

Ginola's story of love ... for himself

In the era when 81 Premiership players are paid at least a million quid a year, football autobiographies are a dime a dozen.

That being the case, David Ginola's exit from White Hart Lane came in pretty handy for the purposes of his autobiography due next month, snazzily entitled David Ginola: The Autobiography (you can tell the guy's a creative genius).

Judging by the advance extracts, the book is an okay read if you've nothing else to do. But the necessary business of cobbling together the all-important sensationalism seems a touch contrived, since the big revelation is that George Graham wasn't a fan of Ginola. Shocker, eh?

'He would always try to put me down in front of the other players, especially at team meetings,' remembers the Frenchman. 'He would single me out and criticise my game so that I lost the respect of my team-mates.'

Is that last part really true? It doesn't suggest Ginola has much regard for his team-mates. What a bunch of sheep. If Graham is indeed as transparent as that, surely the Spurs squad are capable of rumbling his motives.

If the situation were reversed and Ginola played like five kinds of excrement while Graham sang his praises, would Ginola's teammates spinelessly ignore the evidence of their own eyes and pronounce him the best thing since sliced bread? Of course not.

Then it turns out that Ginola's sudden transfer to Villa Park actually wasn't terribly sudden after all, since it was patently on the cards for months beforehand.

It began in May when Ginola was on holiday in Mauritius and was invited to dinner by Doug Ellis, who happened to be staying at a neighbouring hotel.

Why is it that one smiles as Ginola relates how he got Ellis to come to his hotel instead?

David Ginola: In action for Tottenham Hotspur.

Sweet also that the Villa chairman is addressed cap-doffingly as 'Mr Ellis', while his Tottenham counterpart is brusquely referred to as 'Sugar'. So, as ever with these autobiographies, the most interesting part is what the author reveals of himself without appearing to notice.

Ginola was indisputably, as he repeatedly states, 'the player whom the Spurs fans liked the most'. But his unembarrassed proclamations of his own 'personality, image and popularity' suggest not so much plain truth as - whisper it - relentless vanity.

Who would have thought it? 'I am Latin and very macho,' drones Ginola, who is actually Gallic.

'I don't like dominant women. Nor, when I am out with other men, do I like women to show up their men. It is not a problem for my wife. She knows just to listen.'

Just as well, given that both parties appear equally in love with the same man.

Ginola criticises Graham

Aston Villa's new French winger David Ginola has launched an extraordinary attack on his former manager at Tottenham Hotspur, George Graham.

Ginola, quoted by Villa's official Web site last week, accused Graham of not being man enough to tell the Frenchman he did not want him anymore.

Ginola joined Villa from Spurs last month for three million pounds, following reported differences with Graham last season.

"I was pushed out at Spurs," Ginola said.

"Graham was never man enough to tell me face to face that he did not want me anymore."

The flamboyant Frenchman also questioned Graham's future at the English Premier League club.

"George Graham is living on the edge," Ginola said. "He has to provide something big for Spurs this year or he is finished."

Ginola, voted English football's player of the year in 1999, said after signing for Villa last month that he had been happy at Spurs and had never asked to leave the club.

Unhappy at Newcastle

After the departure of manager Kevin Keegan he became unhappy at Newcastle United.

"When I found out Kenny Dalglish was to replace Kevin Keegan as manager at St.

James's it was the worst possible thing for me.

"The way he treated me made me feel as if I'd had an affair with his wife Marina.

"I actually said that to the press one day and, next morning, things became so bad that the two of us almost came to blows during training — we had to be pulled apart by other players."

The Frenchman, who was a big hit with Newcastle's vocal supporters, admitted he did not get on with Tyneside favourite and former England captain Alan Shearer.

"I can think of no forward I would rather have in my team than Alan Shearer but I got the impression that he didn't like me from day one."

"Shearer is an institution. I don't have time for the man, but, as a footballer, I respect him a lot."

Even Keegan, for whom Ginola otherwise professes great admiration, upset the Frenchman in 1996 by preventing a transfer to Barcelona.

At 33, Ginola is now approaching the twilight of his career but in an optimistic frame of mind.

"I have settled in well at Villa Park and my new team mates have been very supportive.

"My thoughts are now for Aston Villa, and I have new dreams and ambitions to win things for this club."

Houllier nearly ruined my life – Ginola

David Ginola has accused former France manager Gerard Houllier of trying to ruin his life and revealed how he almost came to blows with manager Kenny Dalglish when he played for Newcastle United.

Ginola's dislike for England striker Alan Shearer and Tottenham Hotspur manager George Graham are also evident in excerpts from the flamboyant Aston Villa winger's autobiography serialised last week in the *Daily Mail*.

The comments by England's 1999 Player of the Year are sure to cause controversy in the Premier League where Ginola has mesmerised fans — and driven his coaches to distraction — since signing for Newcastle from Paris St Germain in 1995.

The target of Ginola's venom was Graham, whom he blamed for forcing his departure from Tottenham this summer.

"Sometimes it was like George Graham was put on this earth to give me a hard time. "He would single me out and criticise something in my game, so that I lost the respect of my team mates.

"Tottenham Hotspur Football club was my entire life and what George Graham was doing to me was tearing me apart.

David Ginola: Paraded to his new fans at Villa for the first time.

"Maybe I was too much for him to cope with in terms of my personality, image and popularity with the fans...he wanted to be the tough guy," said Ginola.

The spotlight fell on Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier who ran the France team when France lost to Bulgaria in 1993 and failed to qualify for the World Cup in the U.S.

Ginola, whose misdirected pass helped create Bulgaria's winning goal, was targeted by angry fans after the match.

"The next day I received a call from a journalist saying I should turn on the television immediately. I switched between channels but no matter which one I chose, I saw Houllier's face.

"He was saying things like: The fact that one player (Ginola) cracked up was like a drop of acid...he sent an exocet missile through the heart of French football...he committed a crime.

"I feel it is something which will haunt me for the rest of my life. I believe a weaker person would have been destroyed.

"It was as if he had flicked the switch on the guillotine — with my head on the block.

Everyone around me was crying, my wife, my mother, and my father, even my friends.

"Houllier's words particularly affected my grandfather — he nearly died from the pain of seeing how they hurt his family."

"This man, Gerarrd Houllier, has ensured that I have to carry this stigma around with me for the rest of my life."

NO HASSLE FOR JIMMY

By signing Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, Gianluca Vialli is attempting to alter the very DNA of his Chelsea side.

Too often, the fragile egos at Stamford Bridge have disintegrated when the pressure is on but the theory that their title challenge has been more cosmetic than genuine no longer holds water following the arrival of the £15million goalscoring equivalent of a streetfighter.

Caring little for reputation and even less for fear, the Dutch-man's influence in the Stamford Bridge dressing room is bound to be evident when they attempt to dig out a result against Bradford City.

Hasselbaink has been taunted by team-mates about his selfish attitude in the past but that is exactly the quality which Vialli hopes will unite his team into single-minded Premiership challengers.

He demonstrated his competitive streak last season by scoring 24 goals for Atletico Madrid, even though the team were unable to avoid relegation. He and his new manager are kindred spirits - Hasselbaink lives to score goals just as Vialli now exists to win the Premiership.

In a dangerous repeat of the allegations which hastened his exit from Leeds United, unrest at Atletico was fuelled by a belief that the striker put himself above criticism levelled at the rest of the side.

However, his new team-mates appear to have no such worries and the joyful way they congratulated him when he rammed home his penalty for the opening goal in the 4-2 defeat of West Ham was significant.

Hasselbaink, himself, was keen to promote the togetherness of his new team-mates when he described the improved atmosphere of the club as a key factor in their optimism for the season.

Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink: Could he be this season's star?

'The bond in the club is very strong,' he said. 'We have really nice times with each other. A lot of people think we have a lot of stars and that we are big-time but that's not the truth. We are quite happy with each other and try to make it like a family.'

Doubtless that will be like a Verdi aria to the ears of Vialli, although, to achieve important victories, he would probably trade a shot of nastiness for the lovey dovey co-operation his players are keen to project.

Certainly, though, Hasselbaink seems unwilling to rock the boat. 'I'm just one hard-working guy trying to fit into the team,' he said. 'Criticism hurts but it keeps you going.

'It is a massive club and a massive team and the thing is for us to be positive and to be consistent. The team has to keep on going every week. If we can do that, we have a good chance of challenging Manchester United.

'I want to do well here and I want to put everything that I have into the team and try to become a better player. I have nothing to prove to myself but you know that if the club pay £15m for you, they expect you to do something.'

Even scoring goals is no guarantee of a place in the side, however. Tore Andre Flo was the club's top-scorer with 19 last season but was on the bench on the opening day of the season. Chelsea have no intention of letting him go, though.

Aston Villa offered around £12m for Flo but their manager, John Gregory, said: 'We offered good money but Chelsea were just not interested.' One player they were prepared to sell was Romania wing back Dan Petrescu.

Petrescu played more than 200 matches for Chelsea — a club record for a foreigner — before falling out of favour with Vialli and not even making the bench for last season's FA Cup Final.

It says much about the way he is regarded by the rest of the Premiership that Southampton and Middlesbrough both targeted him before he completed his £1m move to Bradford.

Petrescu, 32, said: 'I was very happy at Chelsea but it became clear with five or six matches to go last season that, for some reason, I was no longer wanted.

'To play the rest of the season and then to miss the Cup Final was very disappointing for me. I had planned to finish my career at Chelsea.'

PSV chairman slams United's Van Nistelrooy plan

PSV Eindhoven chairman Harry van Raaij has slammed as "too mad for words" Manchester United's approach to Dutch striker Ruud van Nistelrooy.

Van Nistelrooy has been invited to train in Manchester in October by United boss Alex Ferguson as the English champions look to refloat the failed transfer of the Dutch international.

United had been willing to pay 18.5 million pounds ($46.25m) for Van Nistelrooy in April but put the deal on ice after he failed to satisfy United doctors about his fitness following a knee injury.

Ruud van Nistelrooy

PSV insisted their player was fit, although Van Nistelrooy subsequently broke down in training and threatened to call off the deal at the time. The acrimony resurfaced in comments from their chairman at the weekend.

"We have Ruud under contract. We have paid for his (knee) operation...We are also continuing to pay his salary. I can hardly believe that Ferguson has made this offer to Ruud," Van Raaij said.

"If it is indeed the case then he has crossed the line of decency. He would be thinking he was the King of Football," Van Raaij was reported to have said.

He added he would be contacting United to establish what Ferguson had actually said.

PSV spokesman Pedro Salazar-Hewitt said: "It is not the behaviour we expected from a club like United, nor a trainer like Ferguson.

"If United have any ideas about Ruud's future they should contact us first. The lines of communication between us are always very open."

In comments reported by the *News of the World* last week Ferguson said United were still interested in buying Van Nistelrooy but declined to suggest a transfer sum.

He said he planned to fly to the Netherlands this week to talk to the player.

Players don't have enough rest between matches — Houllier

Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier criticised the Premier League fixture list last week, saying there was not enough rest between matches.

Liverpool beat Bradford City 1-0 in their season opener and then faced title rivals Arsenal at Highbury 48 hours later losing 2-0.

Houllier told the Liverpool Web site: "If we want to give the fans entertainment then we need to be able to give players enough rest between matches.

"It isn't right to play two games so close to each other because there will obviously be a bit of tiredness after playing on the Saturday.

"I am also disappointed that it is Arsenal we have to play in our second match...for me, this is one of the key games in the season.

"If we have to play it in the first week then we should have a period of rest after the opening game to prepare for it."

Gerard Houllier: No time.

No Rivaldo, No Problem

Rivaldo, the world's top player, will not be coming to the party but organisers of the Olympic soccer tournament said last week they still expected to sell more than one million tickets.

Tournament director Peter Hugg said there would be about 1.5 million tickets on sale for the men's and women's competitions and "clearly the progress of the Australian men's and women's teams will also dictate interest".

"We are looking to top the million mark which would be tremendous."

He said the men's tournament would not suffer because Barcelona's Brazilian international Rivaldo, world and European player of the year, was omitted last week from his country's Olympic soccer squad.

"If we focus on one player then it is disrespectful to the other players. There are so many great players," he said.

But Hugg said interest in the tournament was still huge, especially in Asia in the build-up to the 2002 World Cup to be hosted by Japan and South Korea.

"There is a lot of interest in Asia, especially as the two host nations for 2002 have qualified," he said.

Rivaldo: No Olympic Games.

One Japanese travel company is organising a special tour allowing fans to fly from Tokyo, arrive in time to see Japan play Brazil on September 20 in Brisbane and then fly straight back after the game, sleeping on the plane both ways.

Hugg said South Korea and Japan were sending observers from their organising committees to watch the tournament.

Kewell, who plays for Premier League club Leeds United, has been named in Australia's squad but pulled out over the weekend as he will not recover in time from an Achilles tendon injury.

"Sydney's my home town and I'd set my heart on being there to do the business for my country in front of my friends and family," Kewell said in a recent Australian newspaper column.

The men's tournament starts on September 13, two days before the Games' opening ceremony, and the final is on September 30.

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE: The Qualifiers

Valencia through easily

Valencia	4
Tirol Innsbruck	1

(4-1 agg.)

Valencia, beaten in last season's European Cup final by Real Madrid, eased back into the Champions League last week with a one-sided 4-1 win over Tirol Innsbruck of Austria.

The Spaniards clinched the tie 4-1 on aggregate after a goalless first leg two weeks ago and were put on their way to victory by a masterful performance from midfielder Gaizka Mendieta.

After a hectic start in a packed Mestalla stadium a piece of quick thinking from the 26-year-old Spanish international midfielder allowed the tense crowd to breathe a little easier.

In the 22nd minute he took a short corner and after a quick pass from Kily Gonzalez blasted a shot past Tirol goalkeeper Stanislav Tchertchessov.

A minute before the end of the first half Mendieta once again showed himself to be more alert than the clumsy Tirol defence.

A looping free kick beat the offside trap and saw Ruben Baraja lay on an open goal for new signing Diego Alonso, who gratefully slotted the ball home to make it 2-0.

Mendieta then increased his own tally eight minutes into the second half after he coolly converted a penalty awarded after a clumsy challenge by Stefan Marasek on substitute David Abelda.

The fourth Valencia goal was the icing on the cake. A sublime piece of skill saw Kily Gonzalez skip past three Tirol defenders before he clipped in a perfect cross from the by-line.

Alonso met it with a thundering left-foot volley leaving the dispairing Tchertchessov no time to react.

Twenty minutes from the end Tirol managed a consolation goal after Radoslav Gilewicz neatly latched on to the end of a long ball from midfield and volleyed past the unprepared Canizares.

Valencia join Real Madrid, Deportivo Coruna and Barcelona in the Champions League proper.

Valencia celebrate their victory.

INTER CRASH OUT

Inter Milan	0
Helsingborg	0

(0-1 agg.)

Inter Milan failed to qualify for the Champions League last week when a last minute save by goalkeeper Sven Andersson condemned them to a 0-0 draw at home to Swedish side Helsingborg.

Andersson dived to his right to parry a firmly struck spot kick from Inter's Uruguayan forward Alvaro Recoba after defender Ole Nilsson was judged to have handled inside the box.

The keeper's save ensured the Swedes went through to Europe's premier competition for the first time in their history courtesy of their 1-0 home win in the first leg of the third round qualifying tie.

Inter had most of the possession in front of 50,000 fans at the San Siro and twice hit the woodwork as they desperately tried to unlock the visiting defence.

Chilean striker Ivan Zamorano headed over from Inter's first real attack and Dutch midfielder Clarence Seedorf shaved the crossbar with a fierce drive from 30 metres.

Alvaro Recoba: His penalty miss sealed Inter's fate.

But it was after the interval, when Recoba and Ireland's Robbie Keane came off the bench, that Inter really tightened the screws, forcing the Swedes to pull 10 men back into their half and leave Brazilian striker Alvaro Santos stranded up front.

Six minutes after the break Keane bundled his way into the box and found himself with his back to goal and the ball at his feet. His backheel rolled across the six-yard box and bounced back off the foot of the post.

Seedorf and Recoba inspired numerous Inter forays but when the Uruguayan missed his penalty Inter's hopes of taking the match to extra time evaporated.

Their failure to reach the Champions League for the second successive year will cost them an estimated 20 billion lire ($9.23 million) in the sale of television rights, sponsorship deals and gate reciepts.

It also piles pressure on coach Marcello Lippi ahead of the start of the Italian league season on October 1.

Smith goal enough for understrength Leeds

TSV 1860 Munich	0
Leeds United	1

(1-3 agg.)

Leeds United clinched a place in the Champions League last week with a remarkable 1-0 win over TSV 1860 Munich for a 3-1 aggregate success.

Manager David O'Leary said before the game it would be the biggest achievement of his managerial career if Leeds won this second leg of their third round qualifier as they had four key players missing through illness or injury as well as Olivier Dacourt and Erik Bakke suspended after being sent off in the first leg.

TSV also had Ned Zelic suspended after being sent off in the first leg and never got going against the English side who went ahead through Alan Smith just after the break.

He punished some indecisive defending in the TSV defence with a close-range, 46th minute strike.

TSV's best chance came in the first half when Thomas Hassler cracked a 20-metre free-kick against a post, but Leeds restricted them to only a few chances in the second half.

Kiev squeeze through

Red Star	1
Dynamo Kiev	1

(1-1 agg.)
(Kiev win on away goals rule)

Dynamo Kiev squeezed through to the European Champions League on the away goals rule after a tense 1-1 draw with Red Star Belgrade last week.

The first leg of the third qualifying round in Kiev had ended in a goalless draw.

Branko Boskovic fired Red Star ahead in the 22nd minute with a crisp, low shot from the edge of the box.

But Valyantsin Bialkevich silenced the passionate 53,000 home crowd 11 minutes later when he capitalised on a defensive error and slotted the ball over the advancing goalkeeper Aleksandar Kocic.

Kiev almost added a second within a minute, Kakha Kaladze shooting just wide of the far post after a fine, solo run.

Kiev dominated much of the second half and only a string of superb saves by Kocic denied them a win.

BESIKTAS QUALITY

Lokomotiv Moscow	1
Besiktas	3

(1-6 agg.)

Turkish club Besiktas scored an easy 3-1 away win over Lokomotiv Moscow last week to stroll into the Champions League group stage with a 6-1 aggregate victory.

French striker Pascal Nouma dashed any hopes of Lokomotiv making a comeback after trailing 3-0 from the third qualifying round first leg when he scored the all-important away goal in the 28th minute.

Although Lokomotiv defender Igor Cherevchenko, who was returning from a three-game ban for hitting an opponent in a UEFA Cup match last season, equalised shortly after the interval, the Russians failed to build on their momentum.

Instead, Besiktas regained the lead in the 72nd minute, when striker Nihat beat Russia goalkeeper Ruslan Nigmatullin after a great solo run.

Nihat, who also scored in the first leg, placed a rising shot into the top of the net after dribbling past three Lokomotiv defenders.

Besiktas captain Tayfur Havutcu sealed a well-deserved victory when he beat Nigmatullin from close range three minutes from time.

Before the match both teams observed a minute's silence in memory of the 118 Russian sailors who died on the sunken submarine Kursk in the Barents Sea.

Lyon reach their first Champions League

Lyon	2
Inter Bratislava	1

(4-2 agg.)

A 90th minute goal from substitute Steed Malbranque fired Olympique Lyon into their first Champions League after beating Inter Bratislava 2-1 last week.

Leading 2-1 from the third qualifying round first leg, the wealthy French team avoided the anguish and considerable financial loss of missing European soccer's premier club competition for the second year running.

Lyon, who were ousted in the final qualifyind round last season, had to fight an uphill battle after an impressive Inter team went ahead through Attile Pinte after 38 minutes.

Booed by their home crowd at first, Lyon finally signalled their recovery when a superb shot from Cameroon's Marc-Vivien Foe rattled a post in the 53rd minute.

Lyon equalised three minutes later when former Auxerre striker Steve Marlet scored from a fine cross by playmaker Vikash Dhorasoo.

Malbranque, who came on as an 88th minute substitute, sealed victory after a penetrating break through the Slovak defence two minutes later.

Panathinaikos beat Poles

Panathinaikos	2
Polonia Warsaw	1

(4-3 agg.)

Panathinaikos returned to the Champions League after a three-year absence last week by beating Polonia Warsaw 2-1 for a 4-3 aggregate win in the third qualifying round.

Greek international Nikos Liberopoulos put the home side in front after 30 minutes with a well-struck right-foot shot.

The Polish team's problems increased 15 minutes later when Akadiusz Kaliszan was sent off after picking up a second yellow card for a clumsy challenge on Paulo Sousa.

A 61st-minute penalty from Karl Heinz Pflipsen looked to have settled the tie but the home team had to endure a tense period after Bak grabbed an 86th minute goal.

But 10-man Warsaw could not repeat their first-leg comeback and the Athens team join local rivals Olympiakos Piraeus in the draw for the lucrative group stages of the competition.

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE: The Qualifiers

Rangers' win marred by Albertz injury

Rangers	3
Herfolge	0

(6-0 agg.)

Rangers reached the group stage of the Champions League with a workmanlike 3-0 win over Herfolge of Denmark last week — but it may prove to be a costly success.

The Scotland side, who won the third qualifying round tie 6-0 on aggregate, had midfielder Jorg Albertz carried off on a stretcher in the 73rd minute with a knee injury after a late tackle from Thomas Hoyer.

The German, who scored twice for Rangers in the Champions League last season, appeared to be in great pain.

Rangers overcame a physical battering from the Danes before taking the lead in the 48th minute when Rod Wallace headed in Neil McCann's cross.

Substitute Allan Johnston made it 2-0 with an overhead kick from 12 metres in the 78th minute and Andrei Kanchelskis wrapped up the scoring with a lob from 25 metres in the 89th minute.

Galatasaray survive scare

Galatasaray	2
St. Gallen	2

(4-3 agg.)

UEFA Cup-holders Galatasaray survived a late rally by St Gallen of Switzerland to draw 2-2 and secure a place in the Champions League in an error-riddled match in Istanbul last week.

Galatasaray won the third qualifying round tie 4-3 on aggregate but had a nervy time at the finish after a lapse from the Turkish champions' Brazilian keeper Claudio Taffarel who put the Swiss back in contention in the 85th minute.

Taffarel allowed Charles Amoah to poach the ball as he was bouncing it to bring the score to 2-2.

With St Gallen needing only another away goal to clinch the tie, Galatasaray scrambled to hold on for the final minutes against the Swiss side.

An own goal by Marc Zellweger had put the Turks 1-0 up after 22 minutes, before their new Brazilian striker Jardel calmly stroked home a penalty after 28 minutes to make it 2-0.

But Ionel Gane scored a glancing header to pull one back two minutes later and the Swiss gained confidence as the second half progressed.

Shevchenko puts Milan through

AC Milan	3
Dinamo Zagreb	0

(6-1 agg.)

Striker Andriy Shevchenko scored twice to steer AC Milan to a 3-0 defeat of 10-man Dinamo Zagreb and a place in the Champions League last week.

Shevchenko struck in the 23rd and 43rd minutes and a 56th-minute goal from Jose Mari sealed a 6-1 victory on aggregate after the second leg of the third qualifying round.

The Ukrainian striker, Milan's top scorer last year, got his first from a free kick.

He fired the ball past the wall from just outside the area to beat goalkeeper Tomislav Butina and crush Dinamo's hopes of reversing the 3-1 first leg defeat during which he also scored the first two goals.

Andriy Shevchenko

Twenty minutes later Shevchenko latched on to a loose ball during a scramble in the penalty area to find the net again.

Dinamo, who created several chances in the opening minutes of the game, failed to recover from the shock, made worse by the loss of midfielder Jasmin Agic, who picked up his second card just before half-time.

Spanish striker Mari scored the third when a pass from Coco found him unmarked in the penalty box.

Milan chose to wind down for the rest of the game but remained in firm control.

Hamburg back on Europe's big stage

Hamburg	0
Brondby	0

(2-0 agg.)

Hamburg SV returned to Europe's top club competition for the first time in 17 years last week, drawing 0-0 at home to Brondby of Denmark to win their third round Champions League qualifier 2-0 on aggregate.

Hamburg, European Cup winners in 1983 but German football's sleeping giants for the past decade, created a string of openings — the vast majority falling to Ghanaian striker Tony Yeboah — but were unable to capitalise on any of them.

Yeboah, in the middle of a trial on tax evasion charges, put two of his best first half chances, both headers, straight into the arms of Brondby keeper Mogens Krogh.

But the Danish side, who had Dan Anton Johansen sent off in the 82nd minute for fouling Yeboah on the edge of the box, rarely troubled Hamburg, who can now rejoin Europe's footballing elite in the lucrative group phase of the Champions League.

Hamburg's last appearance in the premier European club competition, as defenders of their 1983 title, ended in first round defeat.

Extra time win sends minnows through

Shakhtar Donetsk	2
Slavia Prague	0

(after extra time) (2-1 agg.)

Shakhtar Donetsk of Ukraine equalised in injury time and scored a second in extra time to beat Slavia Prague of the Czech Republic 2-0 and clinch a shock place in the Champions League last week.

The Ukrainian team, runners-up to Dynamo Kiev in the Ukrainian championship last season, were trailing 1-0 from the first leg and appeared to be on their way out of the competition as the score remained goalless and the clock showed 90 minutes.

But with injury time ticking away Slavia goalkeeper Radek Cerny failed to clear a corner and the ball eventually came to Ukrainian striker Andriy Vorobei, who scored from close range.

Serhiy Atelkin then buried Slavia's hopes seven minutes into extra time after a cross from Vorobei. Cerny managed to deflect his low shot, but the Shakhtar forward had time to get to control the ball and complete his team's remarkable, late comeback.

ALL RESULTS AND FULL CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FIRST ROUND DRAW PAGE 30

FIFA World Rankings

(Valid until September 6)

FIFA founded 1904

1	Brazil	68=	Kuwait	136	Lesotho
2	France	70=	Bolivia	138	Luxemburg
3	Argentina	70=	Lithuania	139	Tanzania
4	Czech Republic	72	Zimbabwe	140=	Liechtenstein
5	Spain	73	China PR	140=	Rwanda
6	Italy	74	Guinea	142	Ethiopia
7	Portugal	75=	Burkina Faso	143=	Bangladesh
8	Netherlands	75=	Cuba	143=	Benin
9	Norway	77	Algeria	145	St Kitts & Nevis
10	Yugoslavia	77=	Namibia	146	Burundi
11	Germany	79	Estonia	147	Korea DPR
12	Romania	80	Latvia	148	Antigua & Barbuda
13	England	81	Senegal	149	Bermuda
14	Mexico	82	Bosnia-Herzegovina	150	Gambia
15	Croatia	83	Haiti	151=	Botswana
16	Paraguay	84	FYR Macedonia	151=	Maldives
17	Colombia	85=	El Salvador	151=	Sri Lanka
18	Denmark	85=	Mali	154	Andorra
19	Sweden	87	Iraq	155	Dominican Republic
20	South Africa	88=	Armenia	156	Cape Verde Islands
21	United States	88=	Togo	157	Mauritania
22	Chile	90=	Albania	158	Yemen
22	Scotland	90=	Gabon	159	Dominica
24	Morocco	92	Qatar	160	Cayman Islands
25	Russia	93	Congo	161	Nepal
25	Tunisia	94	Barbados	162	Chinese Taipei
27	Slovakia	95	Moldova	163	Chad
28	Belgium	96	New Zealand	164	Laos
29=	Trinidad & Tobago	97	Syria	164	Surinam
29=	Turkey	98	Northern Ireland	166	Eritrea
31=	Egypt	99	Indonesia	167	San Marino
31=	Greece	100	Liberia	168	Vanuatu
33=	Cameroon	101	Jordan	169	Cook Islands
33=	Ukraine	102	Singapore	170	British Virgin Is.
35=	Israel	103	Wales	171	Palestine
35=	Uruguay	104	Vietnam SR	172	Kyrgyzstan
37	Korea Republic	105=	Mozambique	173	Netherlands Antilles
38=	Iran	105=	Uganda	174	Samoa
38=	Ireland Republic	107	Oman	175	Guinea-Bissau
38=	Zambia	108	Azerbaijan	176	Niger
41	Slovenia	109	Kenya	177	Central African Rep.
42=	Austria	110=	Belarus	178	Macao
42=	Peru	110=	Lebanon	179	Sao Tome e Principe
44	Poland	112	Malaysia	180	Cambodia
45	Cote d' Ivoire	113	Venezuela	181	Bahamas
46	Jamaica	114	Malawi	182	Philippines
47	Angola	115	India	183	Tonga
48	Japan	116	Mauritius	184	Guyana
49	Honduras	117	Kazakhstan	185	Aruba
50	Ghana	118	Malta	186	Belize
51	Iceland	119	Faroe Islands	187	Equatorial Guinea
52	Bulgaria	120	Turkmenistan	188=	Pakistan
53	Hungary	121	Madagascar	188=	Seychelles
54	Finland	122	Panama	190	Nicaragua
55	Nigeria	123	St Vincent/Gr	191	Papua New Guinea
56	Canada	124	Libya	192	Djibouti
57	Saudi Arabia	125	Hong Kong	193	Brunei Darussalam
58=	Thailand	126	Sudan	194	Puerto Rico
58=	UAE	127	Tahiti	195	Somalia
60	Guatemala	128	St Lucia	196	US Virgin Islands
61	Costa Rica	129	Bahrain	197	Mongolia
62	Switzerland	130	Solomon Islands	198	Anguilla
63	Cyprus	131	Sierra Leone	199	Turks and Caicos Is.
64	Uzbekistan	132	Myanmar	200	Bhutan
65	Ecuador	133	Swaziland	201	Guam
66	AUSTRALIA	134	Tajikistan	202	Montserrat
67	Congo DR	135	Fiji	203	American Samoa
68=	Georgia	136	Grenada		

***Note:** Teams inactive since 1991 and teams which have not played yet do not appear in the table.*

Wenger charged by F.A.

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger was charged with bringing the game into disrepute by the F.A. last week.

The charge relates to an incident after Arsenal's 1-0 defeat at Sunderland on the opening day of the Premier League season following Patrick Vieira's last minute sending off for raising a hand to Sunderland's Darren Williams.

Wenger is alleged to have used "threatening behaviour and physical intimidation" towards fourth official Peter Taylor in the players' tunnel at the Stadium of Light.

If found guilty under new rules set by the FA this season, Wenger could be banned from the touchline for 12 matches and be fined four weeks' wages.

An FA statement read: "Mr Wenger has been charged with a breach of FA rules.

"It follows an incident after the game in the players' tunnel close to the Arsenal dressing room.

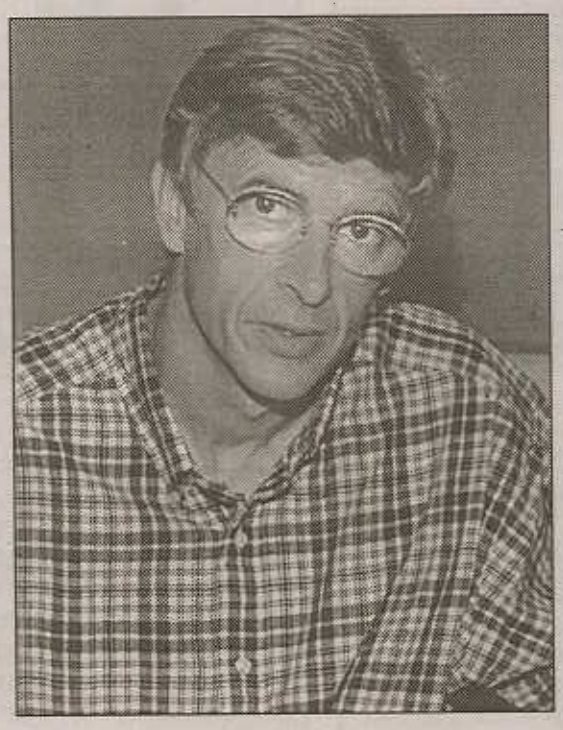
"It refers to what is alleged to have been threatening behaviour and physical intimidation."

Wenger, who has received criticism for the poor disciplinary record held by his club during his tenure at Highbury, has 14 days to respond to the charge.

A total of 31 Arsenal players have been sent off since Wenger became Arsenal manager in October 1996.

That total includes Vieira's second red card just 48 hours later against Liverpool last week.

Wenger was critical of referee Graham Poll after that match, but the FA have not made any move against him for those comments.



Arsene Wenger: Charged.

Student injured as Flamengo fans fight each other

One youth was seriously injured when fans of the same Brazilian club fought among themselves after a match, police and witnesses said last week.

An estimated 50 supporters of the Rio de Janeiro club Flamengo left a trail of destruction in a square near the famous Maracana Stadium following their team's 2-1 defeat at home to River Plate of Argentina witnesses said.

They said the square was littered with broken sticks, used in the fight, and stained with blood after the brawl which involved a supporters group called "Young Fla" and another named "The Black and Red Generation."

A police official confirmed there had been a brawl and that one youth had been taken to hosptial with head injuries.

Local media said that the youth, an 18-year-old student said not to belong to either faction, was in a coma and his state of health was "delicate". Hospital officials could not be immediately contacted.

Police said other youths suffered minor injuries. Several fans were arrested and released without being charged.

Soccer violence is common in Brazil, and at least three fans have been killed this year.

No Olympics for Romario

Brazil coach Wanderley Luxemburgo is standing by his decision not to take Romario to the Sydney Olympics despite an intense media campaign for the veteran striker's inclusion.

A statement issued by the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) said: "Wanderley understands and respects the wishes of the player but the decision made by the staff and the CBF is to take only players under the age of 23.

"If the decision had been to take over-age players then Romario would have been among the favourites for his will and his quality as a player."

The Olympic soccer tournament is limited to players under 23 but each team can field up to three over-age players.

Luxemburgo, coach of both Brazil's senior and Olympic teams, announced his squad last week and said he had decided against taking older players so that he could reward the squad who qualified the country in the first place.

Brazil have never won the Olympic soccer tournament and Romario, who is nearing his 35th birthday, has made public his desire to make history and add an Olympic gold to the World Cup winners medal he won in 1994.

Romario, who won a silver medal in the Seoul Olympics 12 years ago, had launched an emotional public appeal to Luxemburgo on Sunday after scoring both Vasco da Gama goals in their 2-1 win over Ponte Preta in a domestic game.

"It's the only title I haven't won in the national team.

Romario: Will not be in Sydney this September.

"So I want to ask Wanderley once again to rethink the decision...If he gives me the chance I will prove that together we can wear the long-dreamed-of gold medal."

Romario has not played a full international under Luxemburgo but has been named in the squad for September's World Cup qualifier at home to Bolivia.

His efforts to go to Sydney had won the almost unanimous backing of the media.

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Leeds fans arrested for Hitler chants

German police said last week they had arrested 13 drunken Leeds United fans for chanting "Heil Hitler!" and raising their arms in Nazi salutes.

The men, aged between 19 and 44, were detained in Munich's Hofbraeuhaus beer garden and will be held until after Leeds' Champions League third round qualifying match between the English club and TSV 1860 Munich.

Under German laws to combat far-right political groups, it is illegal to make a Hitler salute, display swastikas and other Third Reich symbols, or to disseminate Nazi propaganda.

A police spokesman said the men, who were wearing Leeds replica shirts and football scarves, had otherwise not misbehaved and there had been no other incidents involving English fans, who have a reputation for hooliganism.

The detained supporters were not freed to watch the game, which Leeds won 1-0 and advanced 3-1 on aggregate.

The murder of a Mozambican man in Dessau and a bomb attack in Duesseldorf that wounded 10 immigrants, including six Jews, have prompted a new wave of soul-searching about persistent extremist violence in a country still haunted by its Nazi past.

Intertoto Cup — The Finals

Stuttgart defeat the French

Stuttgart	1
Auxerre	1

(3-1 agg.)

VfB Stuttgart secured a place in the UEFA Cup last week after drawing 1-1 at home with Auxerre of France for a 3-1 aggregate win in their Intertoto Cup final round match.

Stuttgart, losing European Cup Winner's Cup finalists three years ago, were in control for most of the first half, content to defend their two-goal first-leg advantage.

But Olivier Kapo gave Auxerre an outside chance against the run of play with a well taken 38th minute tap-in after Stuttgart keeper Timo Hildebrand failed to hold a Stephane Guivarc'h shot.

Stuttgart, who were less impressive than in their 4-1 drubbing of Bayer Leverkusen at the weekend, retained their composure though, and equalised in the 62nd minute through a fine Krassimir Balakov free-kick from the edge of the box.

They join fellow German sides Werder Bremen, Kaiserslautern and Hertha Berlin in the draw for the UEFA Cup.

Krassimir Balakov: Celebrates Stuttgart's equaliser.

Celta back from the brink

Zenit St.Petersburg	2
Celta Vigo	2

(4-3 agg.)

Celta Vigo struck twice in the last seven minutes to snatch a 2-2 draw at Zenit St Petersburg in their Intertoto Cup final, second leg match last week to reach the UEFA Cup 4-3 on aggregate.

South Africa striker Benni McCarthy scored a dramatic 88th minute goal which brought the score level on the night and gave the Spaniards a dramatic aggregate win.

McCarthy silenced the near capacity 21,000-strong home crowd when he beat goalkeeper Roman Berezovsky from close range on his second attempt after the Zenit keeper made the initial save.

Celta's Hovsepian and Zenit's Karpin tangle for possession.

Celta were trailing 2-0 after 63 minutes after Gennady Popovich scored twice and were facing elimination with just seven minutes to play when Russian international Valery Karpin brought them back into the tie.

Karpin, who also scored in Celta's 2-1 first leg win a fortnight ago, surprised Berezovsky with a low shot that crept inside the far post.

Before the match both teams observed a minute's silence as amark of respect for the 118 Russian sailors, who died on the sunken submarine Kursk in the Barents Sea.

Udinese back from the dead to claim victory

Udinese	4
Sigma Olomouc	2

(after extra time)
(6-4 agg.)

Ten-man Udinese came back from the dead once again to beat Sigma Olomouc of the Czech Republic 4-2 after extra time in their Intertoto Cup final second leg match last week.

The Italians, who had fought back from 2-0 down to draw the first leg 2-2 despite having a man sent off, won the tie 6-4 on aggregate to book a place in the UEFA Cup for the fourth consecutive year.

Olomouc appeared to have done enough to qualify when they took the lead at Udine on the stroke of half-time through forward Pavel Hapal, who slipped through the home defence and hit a right-foot shot past goalkeeper Luigi Turci.

But with three minutes to play, a largely pedestrian match suddenly came alive.

Udinese striker Roberto Muzzi rose unmarked in the Olomouc penalty area to head home for 1-1 and leave the Serie A side poised to qualify on the away goals rule.

But one minute later Olomouc restored their lead through Josef Mucha and when Muzzi was sent off for a foul on the Czech goalkeeper Udinese's hopes appeared to have died.

But in their final attack of stoppage time, Belgian midfielder Johan Walem curled a free-kick into the box and Czech under-21 international Thomas Ujfalusi, under pressure from Udinese's Massimo Margiotta, headed into his own net.

That left the scores at 2-2 on the night and ensured the match went to extra time.

Despite being a man down against a side in peak condition and six matches into their domestic season, Udinese took the lead in the 99th minute through Argentine striker Roberto Sosa who bundled the ball home from close range.

Olomouc then hit the crossbar and had a goal disallowed for handball before finally crumbling, allowing Margiotta to grab Udinese's final goal with a 115th minute header.

Morientes sidelined for six weeks

Real Madrid's Fernando Morientes will be out of action for at least six weeks after injuring his left knee, club officials said last week.

The Spanish international striker damaged his knee playing in a friendly against Napoli and medical staff discovered ligament damage the following day.

Morientes missed the European Supercup clash with Galatasaray in Monaco and will miss at least, the first three weeks of the Spanish First Division, which starts on the weekend of September 9-10.

It also means he cannot be considered for Spain's opening 2002 World Cup qualifying match in Bosnia on September 2.

The luckless Morientes — a scorer in Real Madrid's 3-0 Champions League final triumph over compatriots Valencia in May — was controversially left out of Spain's Euro 2000 squad.

National coach Jose Antonio Camacho later admitted that the decision was a mistake.

Morientes was recalled for last week's match against Germany only to have to drop out with another injury sustained in a friendly match just three days before the international fixture, this time to his left knee.

Club officials said Morientes would miss several of Real Madrid's Champions League opening phase group matches.

Fernando Morientes

TV GUIDE

All times are Australian Eastern Standard Summer Time

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 30

English Premier League Show
Fox Sports
8.30pm – 10pm

European Soccer Show
Optus (C7 Sport 12)
10am - 11am

English Premier League Show
Fox Sports
5.30am – 7am
(Thursday Morning)

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 1

Inside Soccer
Fox Sports 2
3.30pm – 5pm

Italian Summer Series
Atalanta vs AC Milan
(LIVE)
Optus (ESPN)
5.30am - 8.00am
(Saturday Morning)

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 2

Inside Soccer
Fox Sports
9am – 10.30am

FIFA TV
ABC TV
1.30pm – 2pm

UEFA Champions League
SBS TV
3.30pm – 4.30pm

World Soccer
SBS TV
4.30pm – 5.30pm

English Premier League
SBS TV
5.30pm – 6.30pm

World Cup Qualifying Match
Ukraine vs Poland
(LIVE)
Optus (ESPN)
10.55pm - 1am

World Cup Qualifying Match
Germany vs Greece
(LIVE)
Optus (ESPN)
1am - 3am
(Sunday Morning)

World Cup Qualifying Match
Teams TBA
Fox Sports 2
5am – 8am
(Sunday Morning)

World Cup Qualifying Match
Iceland vs Denmark
Optus (ESPN)
5.30am – 7.30am
(Sunday Morning)

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 3

World Cup Qualifying Match
Teams TBA
Fox Sports
5pm – 7pm
(Sunday Morning)

WORLD

Galatasaray snatch golden goal Supercup

Brazilian striker Jardel scored a golden goal 13 minutes into extra time as UEFA Cup holders Galatasaray stunned eight times European champions Real Madrid to record a 2-1 win in the European Supercup over the weekend.

Mario Jardel: Two goal hero for Galatasaray.

The teams had been level at 1-1 after both scored penalties in regulation time.

Jardel, the Turkish side's close-season signing from Porto, opened the scoring after 41 minutes after Real defender Ivan Campo bundled into Hakan Unsal in the penalty area.

The Austrian referee pointed to the spot and Jardel, who scored five goals in a Turkish league game last weekend and a Champions League penalty in midweek, easily netted the spot kick.

Real fielded only five of the team who started their European Cup final win over Valencia in May and suffered from a lack of cohesion until a Raul equaliser from the spot after 79 minutes.

Galatasaray celebrate with the UEFA Supercup after downing Real Madrid by 2-1.

A Savio cross was controversially adjudged to have been handled by defender Korkmaz Bulent as it sped into the box.

Savio hit the post for Real with time running out but the game went into 30 minutes of extra time and Jardel swept home the winner after a fine low cross from defender Gheorghe Popescu.

Champions League draw

Match day one	Septmeber 12/13	Match day four	October 17/18
Match day two	September 19/20	Match day five	October 24/25
Match day three	September 26/27	Match day six	November 7/8

GROUP A
1. Real Madrid (Spain)
2. Spartak Moscow (Russia)
3. Bayer Leverkusen (Germany)
4. Sporting Lisbon (Portugal)

GROUP B
1. Lazio (Italy)
2. Sparta Prague (Czech Rep)
3. Arsenal (England)
4. Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukraine)

GROUP C
1. Heerenveen (Holland)
2. Valencia (Spain)
4. Olympiakos (Greece)
3. Olympique Lyon (France)

GROUP D
1. Sturm Graz (Austria)
3. Galatasaray (Turkey)
2. Monaco (France)
4. Rangers (Scotland)

GROUP E
1. Deportivo Coruna (Spain)
2. Hamburg SV (Germany)
3. Juventus (Italy)
4. Panathinaikos (Greece)

GROUP F
1. Bayern Munich (Germany)
2. Rosenborg Trondheim (Norway)
3. Paris St Germain (France)
4. Helsingborg (Sweden)

GROUP G
1. Anderlecht (Belgium)
2. PSV Eindhoven (Holland)
3. Dynamo Kiev (Ukraine)
4. Manchester United (England)

GROUP H
1. Besiktas (Turkey)
2. Barcelona (Spain)
3. Leeds United (England)
4. AC Milan (Italy)

WORLD RESULTS... WORLD RESULTS..

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Aston Villa 1 Chelsea 1, Arsenal 5 Charlton Athletic 3, Bradford City 0 Leicester City 0, Everton 2 Derby County 2, Ipswich Town 1 Sunderland 0, Manchester City 1 Coventry City 2, Middlesbrough 1 Leeds United 2, Newcastle United 2 Tottenham Hotspur 0, Southampton 3 Liverpool 3, West Ham United 2 Manchester United 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Arsenal	**3**	**2**	**0**	**1**	**7**	**4**	**6**
2. Leeds United	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
3. Newcastle Utd	3	2	0	1	5	4	6
4. Coventry City	3	2	0	1	5	5	6
5. Manchester Utd	3	1	2	0	5	3	5
6. Leicester City	3	1	2	0	1	0	5
7. Everton	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
8. Middlesbrough	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
9. Bradford City	3	1	1	1	2	1	4
10. Chelsea	3	1	1	1	5	5	4
11. Tottenham	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
12. Liverpool	3	1	1	1	4	5	4
13. Ipswich Twn	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
14. Aston Villa	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
15. Charlton	3	1	0	2	7	8	3
16. Sunderland	3	1	0	2	3	5	3
17. Man City	3	1	0	2	5	8	3
18. Derby County	3	0	2	1	6	7	2
19. Southampton	3	0	2	1	6	7	2
20. West Ham	3	0	1	2	4	7	1

LEADING SCORERS

3- Paulo Wanchope (Manchester City), Thierry Henry (Arsenal), Andy Hunt (Charlton), Branko Strupar (Derby County), Alan Smith (Leeds)

2- Mario Stanic (Chelsea), Alen Boksic (Middlesbrough), Hassan Kachloul (Southampton), Duncan Ferguson (Everton), Niall Quinn (Sunderland), Patrick Vieira (Arsenal), Graham Stuart (Charlton Athletic), Craig Bellamy (Coventry), Francis Jeffers (Everton), Michael Owen (Liverpool), Andy Cole (Manchester Utd), David Beckham (Manchester Utd), Daniel Cordone (Newcastle Utd), Marians Pahars (Southampton), Paolo di Canio (West Ham).

ENGLISH FIRST DIVISION

Barnsley 4 West Bromwich Albion 1, Blackburn Rovers 3 Norwich City 2, Bolton Wanderers 2 Preston North End 0, Fulham 4 Stockport County 1, Grimsby Town 0 Sheffield Wednesday 1, Huddersfield Town 1 Crystal Palace 2, Nottingham Forest 1 Birmingham City 2, Queens Park Rangers 1 Crewe Alexandra 0, Sheffield United 2 Tranmere Rovers 0, Wimbledon 0 Watford 0, Wolverhampton Wanderers 1 Burnley.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Fulham	**3**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**9**	**2**	**9**
2. Bolton	3	2	1	0	5	1	7
3. Blackburn	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
4. Watford	3	2	1	0	3	1	7
5. Barnsley	3	2	0	1	5	2	6
6. Preston	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
7. Sheff Utd	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
8. Wolverhampton	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
9. QPR	3	1	2	0	2	1	5
10. Sheff Wed	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
11. Burnley	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
12. Nottm Forest	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
13. Stockport	3	1	1	1	5	6	4
14. Birmingham	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
15. Crystal Palace	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
16. Tranmere	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
17. Huddersfield	3	1	0	2	5	6	3
18. Wimbledon	3	0	2	1	0	1	2
19. Portsmouth	3	0	2	1	2	4	2
20. Grimsby	3	0	1	2	2	4	1
21. Norwich	3	0	1	2	2	4	1
22. Gillingham	3	0	1	2	4	7	1
23. Crewe	3	0	1	2	0	3	1
24. West Brom	3	0	0	3	1	7	0

ENGLISH SECOND LEAGUE

Cambridge United 1 Bristol City 0, Luton Town 1- Bournemouth 0, Millwall 1 Wycombe Wanderers 2, Northampton Town 2 Reading 0, Oldham Athletic 1 Peterborough United 4, Oxford United 0 Brentford 1, Rotherham United 1 Bury 2, Stoke City 0 Notts County 1, Swansea City 0 Colchester United 2, Swindon Town 1 Walsall 4, Wrexham 1 Wigan Athletic 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Walsall	**3**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**10**	**5**	**9**
2. Peterborough	3	2	1	0	7	3	7
3. Wigan	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
4. Wycombe	3	2	1	0	3	1	7
5. Millwall	3	2	0	1	7	5	6
6. Notts County	3	2	0	1	5	4	6
7. Bury	3	2	0	1	4	5	6
8. Brentford	3	1	2	0	2	1	5
9. Northampton	3	1	1	1	3	2	4
10. Colchester	3	1	1	1	2	1	4
11. Cambridge Utd	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
12. Stoke	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
13. Port Vale	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
14. Bristol City	3	1	0	2	3	3	3
15. Oldham	3	1	0	2	7	8	3
16. Wrexham	3	1	0	2	5	6	3
17. Rotherham	3	1	0	2	4	5	3
18. Luton	3	1	0	2	2	3	3
19. Reading	3	1	0	2	2	4	3
20. Bristol Rovers	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
21. Bournemouth	3	0	2	1	2	3	2
22. Swansea	3	0	2	1	0	2	2
23. Swindon	3	0	1	2	1	6	1
24. Oxford Utd	3	0	0	3	0	5	0

ENGLISH THIRD DIVISION

Barnet 2 Cardiff City 2, Blackpool 2 Leyton Orient 2, Cheltenham Town 2 Torquay United 0, Chesterfield 3 Shrewsbury Town 0, Exeter City 1 Hartlepool United 1, Kidderminster Harriers 2 Halifax Town 1, Lincoln City 2 Brighton & Hove Albion 0, Macclesfield Town 0 Hull City 0, Plymouth Argyle 2 Mansfield Town 0, Rochdale 3 Scunthorpe United 2, Southend United 0 Darlington 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Chesterfield	**3**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**9**	**2**	**9**
2. Cheltenham	3	2	1	0	6	2	7
3. Leyton Orient	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
4. Scunthorpe	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
5. Kidderminster	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
6. Barnet	3	1	2	0	8	5	5
7. Blackpool	3	1	2	0	6	4	5
8. Darlington	3	1	2	0	4	2	5
9. Cardiff	3	1	2	0	5	4	5
10. Hartlepool	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
11. Plymouth	3	1	1	1	3	2	4
12. Rochdale	3	1	1	1	5	5	4
13. Lincoln City	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
14. Southend	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
15. Brighton	3	1	0	2	2	5	3
16. Halifax	3	0	2	1	4	5	2
17. Carlisle	3	0	2	1	3	4	2
18. Exeter	3	0	2	1	3	4	2
19. Macclesfield	3	0	2	1	2	3	2
20. Mansfield	3	0	2	1	5	7	2
21. Hull	3	0	2	1	2	4	2
22. Torquay	3	0	1	2	1	5	1
23. York	3	0	1	2	2	7	1
24. Shrewsbury	3	0	1	2	2	8	1

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Celtic 6 Rangers 2, Dundee 1 Hearts 1, Motherwell 1 Aberdeen 1, Dunfermline Athletic 1 Dundee United 0, Hibernian 2 St Mirren 0, St Johnstone 1 Kilmarnock 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Hibernian	**6**	**5**	**1**	**0**	**13**	**1**	**16**
2. Celtic	5	5	0	0	15	6	15
3. Rangers	5	4	0	1	15	11	12
4. Dunfermline	6	2	2	2	4	8	8
5. Dundee	5	2	1	2	8	8	7
6. Kilmarnock	6	2	1	3	8	10	7
7. St Johnstone	5	1	3	1	7	7	6
8. Aberdeen	5	1	3	1	4	5	6
9. Hearts	5	0	4	1	6	8	4
10. St Mirren	5	1	0	4	4	9	3
11. Motherwell	6	0	2	4	4	9	2
12. Dundee United	5	0	1	4	3	9	1

LEADING SCORERS

7- Billy Dodds (Rangers)

5- Henrik Larsson (Celtic), Chris Sutton (Celtic)

4- Didier Agathe (Hibernian), Andy McLaren (Kilmarnock)

3- Jorg Albertz (Rangers), Graeme Jones (St Johnstone), Stuart Lovell (Hibernian), Fabien Cabellero (Dundee)

2- Dirk Lehmann (Hibernian), Jose Sara (Dundee), Mixu Paatelainen (Hibernian), Stuart Elliott (Motherwell), Keigan Parker (St Johnstone), Ricky Gillies (St Mirren), Steve Crawford (Dunfermline Athletic), Stilian Petrov (Celtic)

SCOTTISH FIRST DIVISION

Alloa Athletic 0 Livingston 6, Ayr United 5 Falkirk 2, Clyde 0 Morton 3, Raith Rovers 4 Inverness Cal.Th 1, Ross County 1 Airdrieonians 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Livingston	**4**	**3**	**1**	**0**	**12**	**2**	**10**
2. Ayr	4	3	1	0	10	4	10
3. Clyde	4	2	1	1	6	5	7
4. Morton	4	2	0	2	5	3	6
5. Falkirk	4	2	0	2	7	10	6
6. Raith	3	1	1	1	6	4	4
7. Alloa	4	1	1	2	3	10	4
8. Inverness CT	4	1	0	3	6	10	3
9. Airdrie	4	0	2	2	3	7	2
10. Ross County	3	0	1	2	1	4	1

SCOTTISH SECOND DIVISION

Clydebank 1 Queen of the South 2, Forfar Athletic 2 Stenhousemuir 2, Partick Thistle 1 Berwick Rangers 1, Stirling Albion 0 Queen's Park 1, Stranraer 2 Arbroath 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Queens Park	**4**	**4**	**0**	**0**	**4**	**0**	**12**
2. Stenhousemuir	4	2	1	1	10	6	7
3. Stranraer	4	2	1	1	7	5	7
4. Berwick	4	1	2	1	5	5	5
5. Partick	4	1	2	1	4	7	5
6. Queen of South	4	1	1	2	5	6	4
7. Arbroath	4	1	1	2	4	5	4
8. Clydebank	4	1	1	2	4	5	4
9. Stirling	4	0	3	1	5	6	3
10. Forfar	4	0	2	2	5	8	2

SCOTTISH THIRD DIVISION

Albion Rovers 0 Dumbarton 1, Cowdenbeath 3 Elgin 1, East Stirlingshire 0 Hamilton Academical 0, 0 East Fife 1, Peterhead 1 Brechin City 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Hamilton	**4**	**3**	**1**	**0**	**10**	**0**	**10**
2. Cowdenbeath	4	3	1	0	10	1	10
3. East Fife	4	3	1	0	8	3	10
4. Brechin	4	3	1	0	6	2	10
5. Peterhead	4	2	1	1	6	3	7
6. East Stirling	4	1	1	2	3	7	4
7. Dumbarton	4	1	0	3	1	6	3
8. Elgin	4	0	1	3	3	8	1
9. Albion	4	0	1	3	1	8	1
10. Montrose	4	0	0	4	0	10	0

ITALIAN CUP

Sampdoria (B) 1 Napoli (A) 0, Piacenza (B) 2 Verona (A) 1, Torino (B) 2 Bari (A) 1, Atalanta Bergamo (A) 2 Reggina (A) 0, Venezia (B) 2 Bologna (A) 2, Cosenza (B) 0 Lecce (A) 2, Salernitana (B) 1 Perugia (A) 0, Brescia (A) 2 Vicenza (B) 1.

Second leg: September 6.

GERMAN CUP

TSV 1896 Rain am Lech 0 Schalke 04 7, FC Magdeburg 5 Cologne 2, VfL Hamm 0 Energie Cottbus 6, SC Paderborn 1 Hansa Rostock 2, Fortuna Cologne 0 Bayer Leverkusen 4, SC Pfullendorf 1 SC Freiburg 3, FC Erzgebirge Aue 0 Hamburg SV 3, TSG Pfeddersheim 0 1860 Munich 7,

WORLD

WORLD RESULTS... WORLD RESULTS..

VfB Luebeck 3 Waldhof Mannheim 2 (after penalties), SSV Reutlingen 2 Hertha BSC 3 (extra time), TuS Dassendorf 0 SPVGG Unterhaching 5 SV Babelsberg 1 VFL Bochum 6, Werder Bremen (amateurs) 0 VFL Wolfsburg 1, Wuppertaler SV 1 VFB Stuttgart 3, FC Schoenberg 0 Bayern Munich 4, Tennis Borussia Berlin II 0 Werder Bremen 2, FC Ismaning 0 Borussia Dortmund 4, VFB Stuttgart (amateurs) 6 Eintracht Frankfurt 1, FC Saarbruecken 0 SPVGG Greuther Fuerth 1, LR Ahlen 1 Borussia Moenchengladbach 2, Karlsruher SC II 0 Alemannia Aachen 2, Union Berlin 2 Rot-Weiss Oberhausen 0, FC Teningen 0 MSV Duisburg 3, SV Wehen 2 Stuttgarter Kickers 1, Rot-Weiss Erfurt 0 SSV Ulm 2, SC Halberg-Brebach 0 FC Nuremberg 5, Bayer Leverkusen (amateurs) 1 St. Pauli 2, Karlsruhe SC 2 Chemnitz FC 1, Tennis Borussia Berlin 1 Arminia Bielefeld 3, VfL Osnabrueck 0 Hannover 96 1, Kickers Emden 0 Mainz 05 1.

DUTCH FIRST DIVISION

NEC Nijmegen 4 Vitesse Arnhem 1, Utrecht 1 PSV Eindhoven 3, Sparta Rotterdam 3 Ajax Amsterdam 0, Twente Enschede 1 Feyenoord 2, Fortuna Sittard 0 Heerenveen 2, Willem II Tilburg 2 RKC Waalwijk 0, Graafschap Doetinchem 1 Roda JC Kerkrade 3, NAC Breda 5 Groningen 1, AZ Alkmaar 3 RBC Roosendaal 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. NEC	**3**	**2**	**1**	**0**	**11**	**7**	**7**
2. Feyenoord	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
3. Sp. Rotterdam	2	1	1	0	5	2	4
4. Roda JC	2	1	1	0	5	3	4
5. Willem II	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
6. NAC Breda	2	1	0	1	5	2	3
7. Ajax	2	1	0	1	5	3	3
8. AZ Alkmaar	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
9. Graafschap	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
10. PSV	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
11. Utrecht	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
12. Heerenveen	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
13. Vitesse	2	1	0	1	4	5	3
14. RKC	2	1	0	1	1	2	3
15. Groningen	3	0	2	1	6	10	2
16. Tw. Enschede	2	0	0	2	2	5	0
17. RBC Roos'dl	2	0	0	2	2	6	0
18. Fortuna	2	0	0	2	0	7	0

FRENCH FIRST DIVISION

AJ Auxerre 4 St Etienne 3, Paris St Germain 3 Bastia 1, Girondins Bordeaux 1 RC Lens 1, Lille 2 Metz 1, Olympique Lyon 1 Troyes 0, Stade Rennes 1 Monaco 1, Olympique Marseille 3 En Avant Guingamp 1, Strasbourg 3 Sedan 2, Toulouse 1 Nantes 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. RC Lens	5	3	2	0	8	4	11
2. Lille	5	3	1	1	8	3	10
3. PSG	5	3	1	1	9	5	10
4. Nantes	5	3	1	1	10	7	10
5. Bastia	5	3	0	2	6	4	9
6. AJ Auxerre	5	3	0	2	7	6	9
7. St Etienne	5	2	2	1	10	7	8
8. Monaco	5	2	2	1	8	8	8
9. Marseille	5	2	1	2	8	8	7
10. Sedan	5	2	1	2	6	6	7
11. Stade Rennes	5	1	3	1	7	5	6
12. Lyon	5	1	3	1	4	5	6
13. Metz	5	1	2	2	4	5	5
14. Troyes	5	1	2	2	5	7	5
15. Toulouse	5	0	3	2	4	6	3
16. Bordeaux	5	0	3	2	4	7	3
17. Strasbourg	5	1	0	4	5	15	3
18. Guingamp	5	0	1	4	5	10	1

LEADING SCORERS

3- Frederic Nee (Bastia), Olivier Monterrubio (Nantes), Laurent Robert (Paris St Germain), Olivier Quint (Sedan)

2- Djibril Cisse, Narcisse-Olivcier Kapo, Stpehane Guivarc'h (AJ Auxerre), El-Hadji Diouf (RC Lens), Patrick Collot (Lille), Christophe Dugarry (Bordeaux), Shabani Nonda (Monaco), Victor Bonilla (Toulouse), Alex (St Etienne), Nicolas Gousse (Troyes), Nicolas Anelka, Christian (Paris St Germain), Pape Sarr (St Etienne), Philippe Delaye (Stade Rennes), Salomon Olembe (Nantes), Sladjan Djukic (Troyes), Dado Prso (Monaco), Stephane Ziani (Nantes), William Gallas (Marseille), Christophe Bastien (Metz), Esteban Fuertes (Lens), Marcelinho (Marseille), Bruno Rodriguez (Guingamp)

BELGIAN FIRST DIVISION

Club Bruges 3 Lokeren 1, Charleroi 1 Antwerp 0, Eendracht Aalst 1 Ghent 4, Harelbeke 2 La Louviere 2, Westerlo 1 Lierse 0, Anderlecht 4 Beveren 0, Mechelen 1 Exclesior Mouscron 5, Sint-Truiden 2 Genk 2, Germinal Beerschot 1 Standard Liege 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Club Bruges	**3**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**11**	**4**	**9**
2. Charleroi	3	3	0	0	8	1	9
3. Anderlecht	3	2	1	0	7	2	7
4. Ex Mouscron	3	2	0	1	9	3	6
5. Standard Liege	3	2	0	1	7	4	6
6. Lierse	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
7. Westerlo	3	2	0	1	5	4	6
8. Ghent	3	2	0	1	8	8	6
9. Genk	3	1	2	0	5	3	5
10. Lokeren	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
11. Beveren	3	1	0	2	2	6	3
12. Gr.l Beerschot	3	1	0	2	1	5	3
13. Sint-Truiden	3	0	2	1	2	3	2
14. La Louviere	3	0	2	1	2	5	2
15. Mechelen	3	0	1	2	2	7	1
16. Harelbeke	3	0	1	2	5	11	1
17. Antwerp	3	0	0	3	1	4	0
18. Aalst	3	0	0	3	3	10	0

LEADING SCORERS

5- Dante Brogno (Charleroi) Nenad Jestrovic (Exclesior Mouscron)

4- Khalilou Fadiga (Club Bruges)

3- Jean-Paul Gauthier Boeka-Lisasi (Westerlo) Ivica Mornar (Standard Liege) Alexandros Kaklamanos (Ghent) Gunther Schepens (Ghent) Sven Vermant (Club Bruges)

PORTUGESE FIRST DIVISION

Farense 2 Alverca 0, Benfica 4 Beira Mar 1, Belenenses 2 Porto 0, Pacos Ferreira 2 Aves 0, Campomaiorense 2 Salgueiros 3, Vitoria Guimaraes 1 Sporting Lisbon 4, Estrela Amadora 0 Braga 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Sprt Lisbon	**2**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**5**	**1**	**6**
2. Belenenses	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
3. Salgueiros	2	2	0	0	4	2	6
4. Braga	2	2	0	0	2	0	6
5. Porto	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
6. Boavista	1	1	0	0	4	2	3
7. Uniao Leiria	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
8. Farense	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
9. Pacos Ferreira	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
10. Benfica	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
11. Gil Vicente	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
12. Maritimo	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
13. Camp'rense	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
14. Alverca	2	0	1	1	0	2	1
15. Aves	2	0	0	2	0	3	0
16. Es.Amadora	2	0	0	2	0	3	0
17. Vit Guimaraes	2	0	0	2	1	5	0
18. Beira Mar	2	0	0	2	3	8	0

YUGOSLAV FIRST DIVISION

OFK Beograd Belgrade 3 Napredak Krusevac 0, Rad Belgrade 1 Red Star Belgrade 3, Partizan Belgrade 2 Buducnost Podgorica 0, Zeta Golubovci 2 Cukaricki Belgrade 2, Sutjeska Niksic 0 Milicionar Belgrade 0, Hajduk Kula 5 Sartid Smederevo 0, Zemun Belgrade 1 Radnicki Kragujevac 0, Radnicki Nis 1 Obilic Belgrade 2, Vojvodina Novi Sad 1 Zeleznik Belgrade 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Red Star	3	3	0	0	7	1	9
2. Vojvodina Sad	3	1	0	1	6	1	6
3. Prtzn Belgrade	3	2	0	1	7	3	6
4. OFK Belgrade	3	2	0	1	5	1	6
5. Zel'k Belgrade	3	2	0	1	4	1	6
6. Obilic Belgrade	3	2	0	1	4	5	6
7. Srtd Smederevo	3	2	0	1	4	7	6
8. Hajduk Kula	3	1	1	1	6	2	4
9. Zeta Golubovci	3	1	1	1	6	5	4
10. Ck Belgrade	3	1	1	1	5	5	4
11. Zn Belgrade	3	1	1	1	1	1	4
12. Ska Niksic	3	1	1	1	2	3	4
13. Mil Belgrade	3	1	1	1	2	4	4
14. Krusevac	3	1	0	2	1	5	3
15. Kragujevac	3	1	0	2	1	6	3
16. Rdncki Nis	3	0	1	2	3	5	1
17. B Podgorica	3	0	1	2	0	4	1
18. Rad Belgrade	3	0	0	3	1	6	0

CROATIAN FIRST DIVISION

Hrv. Dragovoljac 2 Sibenik 1, Marsonia 0 Cakovec 1, Zagreb 2 Slaven Belupo 2, Hajduk 1 Cibalia 1, Osijek v Rijeka postponed, Varteks 1 Dinamo 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Dinamo	**4**	**3**	**0**	**1**	**10**	**2**	**10**
2. Hajduk	5	3	1	1	7	4	10
3. Zagreb	5	3	0	2	12	11	9
4. Dragovoljac	4	2	2	0	4	1	8
5. Osijek	4	2	2	0	9	7	8
6. Varteks	5	1	4	0	9	6	7
7. Cakovec	5	2	1	2	8	8	7
8. Sibenik	5	2	0	3	4	7	6
9. Slaven Belupo	5	1	2	2	7	7	5
10. Cibalia	5	0	3	2	3	11	3
11. Rijeka	4	0	2	2	2	4	2
12. Marsonia	5	0	0	5	3	10	0

ROMANIAN FIRST DIVISION

Brasov 1 Rapid Bucharest 0, Ceahlaul Piatra Neamt 1 Universitatea Craiova 4, Dinamo Bucharest 1 Otelul Galati 2, Rocar Bucharest 4 Steaua Bucharest 5, Petrolul Ploiesti 1 Gaz Metan Medias 0, Gloria Bistrita 3 National Bucharest 0, Foresta Falticeni 4 Astra Ploiesti 2, FCM Bacau 3 Arges Pitesti 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. St Bucharest	**4**	**3**	**1**	**0**	**14**	**9**	**10**
2. Unita Craiova	4	3	1	0	7	2	10
3. Brasov	4	3	0	1	3	1	9
4. FCM Bacau	4	2	1	1	10	7	7
5. Frst Falticeni	4	2	1	1	7	4	7
6. Bucharest	4	2	1	1	11	9	7
7. Petrolul Ploiesti	4	2	1	1	5	4	7
8. Otelul Galati	4	2	0	2	8	8	6
9. Arges Pitesti	4	2	0	2	6	9	6
10. Gaz Medias	4	1	1	2	4	3	4
11. Rpd Bucharest	4	1	1	2	5	5	4
12. Gloria Bistrita	4	1	1	2	4	5	4
13. Dn. Bucharest	4	1	1	2	5	7	4
14. Astra Ploiesti	4	1	0	3	4	7	3
15. Ntl Bucharest	4	0	1	3	3	9	1
16. Ceahlaul	4	0	1	3	3	10	1

HUNGARIAN FIRST DIVISION

GROUP A

Dunaferr 3 Nyiregyhaza 0, Sopron 2 Ferencvaros 1, Szombathely 1 Kispest Honved 1, Gyori ETO 3 Tatabanya 2.

GROUP B

Debrecen 0 Vasas 1, MTK Budapest 0 Zalaegerszeg 0, Nagykanizsa 2 Ujpest 4, Pecs 0 Videoton 2.

GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Gyori ETO	**6**	**4**	**0**	**2**	**11**	**8**	**12**
2. Dunaferr	5	3	2	0	11	3	11
3. Sopron	5	3	0	2	7	7	9
4. Tatabanya	5	2	2	1	8	6	8
5. Ferencvaros	5	2	1	2	9	7	7
6. Kispest H.	6	1	4	1	8	7	7
7. Szombathely	6	1	1	4	5	14	4
8. Nyiregyhaza	6	1	0	5	3	10	3

GROUP B:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. MTK Budapest	6	4	2	0	13	2	14
2. Ujpest	6	4	1	1	22	8	13
3. Videoton	6	3	1	2	11	10	10
4. Vasas	6	2	3	1	8	6	9
5. Debrecen	6	3	0	3	12	11	9
6. Zalaegerszeg	6	1	3	2	5	12	6
7. Nagykanizsa	6	1	1	4	5	16	4
8. Pecs	6	0	1	5	3	14	1

NORWEGIAN FIRST DIVISION

Brann Bergen 0 Bryne 0, Haugesund 1 Odd Grenland 0, Lillestrom 2 Valerenga 1, Molde 7 Bodo/Glimt 1, Rosenborg Trondheim 1 Start 2, Stabaek 2 Moss 0, Viking Stavanger 2 Troms 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1.Rosenborg	**21**	**14**	**4**	**3**	**47**	**20**	**46**
2.Viking	21	11	4	6	43	34	37
3.Brann	20	10	4	6	39	32	34
4.Stabaek	20	10	3	7	50	26	33
5.Molde	21	9	6	6	37	37	33
6.Tromso	21	9	5	7	37	38	32
7.Lillestrom	19	8	6	5	32	19	30
8.Odd Grenland	21	8	5	8	31	28	29
9.Bodo/Glimt	21	6	9	6	42	47	27
10.Moss	21	6	7	8	32	38	25
11.Bryne	21	5	5	11	26	45	20
12.Valerenga	21	4	7	10	25	32	19
13.Haugesund	21	4	4	13	28	51	16
14.Start	19	3	5	11	29	51	14

CZECH FIRST DIVISION

Plzen 1 Blsany 1, Bohemians Prague 1 Synot 1, Teplice 2 Jablonec 1, Olomouc 4 Viktoria Zizkov 1, Pribram 3 Brno 0, Sparta Prague 5 Ceske Budejovice 1, Ostrava 1 Slavia Prague 3, Liberec v Drnovice.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Sp. Prague	**5**	**5**	**0**	**0**	**14**	**2**	**15**
2. Synot	5	3	2	0	10	2	11
3. Olomouc	5	3	2	0	9	3	11
4. Slavia Prague	5	3	2	0	8	4	11
5. Liberec	4	3	0	1	9	4	9
6. Teplice	5	2	2	1	5	4	8
7. Ostrava	5	2	1	2	6	7	7
8. Blsany	5	1	3	1	5	4	6
9. Bohemians	5	1	3	1	5	5	6
10. Plzen	5	1	2	2	6	11	5
11. Pribram	5	1	1	3	6	8	4
12. Budejovice	5	1	1	3	4	10	4
14. Drnovice	4	1	0	3	4	8	3
13. Zizkov	5	1	0	4	6	12	3
15. Jablonec	5	0	2	3	4	10	2
16. Brno	5	0	1	4	3	10	1

RUSSIAN FIRST DIVISION

Spartak Moscow 3 Lokomotiv Nizhny Novgorod 1, Lokomotiv Moscow 1 Saturn Ramenskoye 0, Krylya Sovietov Samara 0 Dynamo Moscow 2, Alania Vladikavkaz 2 Torpedo Moscow 1, Uralan Elista 0 Chernomorets Novorossiisk 0, Rostselmash Rostov 0 Zenit St Petersburg 0, Fakel Voronezh 0 Anji Makhachkala 1, CSKA Moscow 1 Rotor Volgograd 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Sp Moscow	**25**	**18**	**1**	**6**	**56**	**25**	**55**
2. Lkv Moscow	23	14	7	2	30	12	49
3. Makhachkala	22	12	4	6	31	18	40
4. Dy Moscow	23	11	7	5	35	26	40
5. Trpd Moscow	24	11	6	7	30	25	39
6. Novorossiisk	22	10	8	4	35	15	38
7. Ramenskoye	24	9	7	8	25	25	34
8. Zenit P'burg	21	9	6	6	26	17	33
9. CSKA Mscw.	23	8	4	11	25	31	28
10.Vladikavkaz	23	7	7	9	25	31	28
11. Rotor Vgrd	23	7	6	10	28	42	27
12. Rostov	22	4	11	7	17	19	23
13. Kya Samara	23	6	3	14	22	40	21
14. Voronezh	23	4	9	10	20	39	21
15. Lk Novgorod	22	2	6	14	11	31	12
16. Uralan Elista	23	2	6	15	13	33	12

UKRANIAN FIRST DIVISION

Nyva Ternopil 3 Dynamo Kiev 7, Shakhtar Donetsk 3 Metalurg Mariupol 1, Stal Alchivsk 0 Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk 1, Metalist Kharkiv 1 Kryvbas Kryviy Rih 0, CSKA Kiev 4 Metalurg Zaporizhya 1, Metalurg Donetsk 1 Karpaty Lviv 0, Vorskla Poltava v Tavria Simferopol.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Dnipro	**8**	**5**	**2**	**1**	**9**	**4**	**17**
2. Dynamo Kiev	7	5	1	1	16	8	16
3. S Donetsk	6	5	0	1	21	5	15
4. CSKA Kiev	8	3	4	1	10	6	13
5. M.Donetsk	7	4	1	2	9	9	13
6. Karpaty Lviv	8	4	0	4	14	9	12
7. Kharkiv	8	3	3	2	8	12	12
8. Mariupol	8	3	2	3	9	10	11
9. Kryviy Rih	7	3	1	3	10	8	10
10. Simferopol	6	3	1	2	9	9	10
11. Zaporizhya	8	2	1	5	7	15	7
12. Ternopil	8	1	3	4	7	16	6
13. Stal Alchivsk	8	1	1	6	6	15	4
14. Vrsk Poltava	6	0	0	6	2	11	0

DANISH SUPERLEAGUE

Herfoelge 3 AGF Aarhus 1, OB Odense 1 FC Midtjylland 2, AaB Aalborg 1 Viborg 0, Haderslev 1 Silkeborg 1, FC Copenhagen 2 Brondby 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Viborg	**6**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**9**	**4**	**11**
2. Silkeborg	6	3	2	1	9	12	11
3. Midtjylland	6	3	1	2	10	8	10
4. AaB Aalborg	6	3	1	2	10	9	10
5. AB Cp'nhagen	5	2	3	0	11	5	9
6. Lyngby	5	3	0	2	7	9	9
7. AGF Aarhus	6	3	0	3	8	11	9
8. Brondby	6	2	2	2	16	7	8
9. OB Odense	6	2	1	3	8	5	7
10. FC Cpnhagen	6	2	1	3	8	6	7
11. Herfoelge	6	2	0	4	9	18	6
12. Haderslev	6	0	1	5	5	16	1

AUSTRIAN FIRST DIVISION

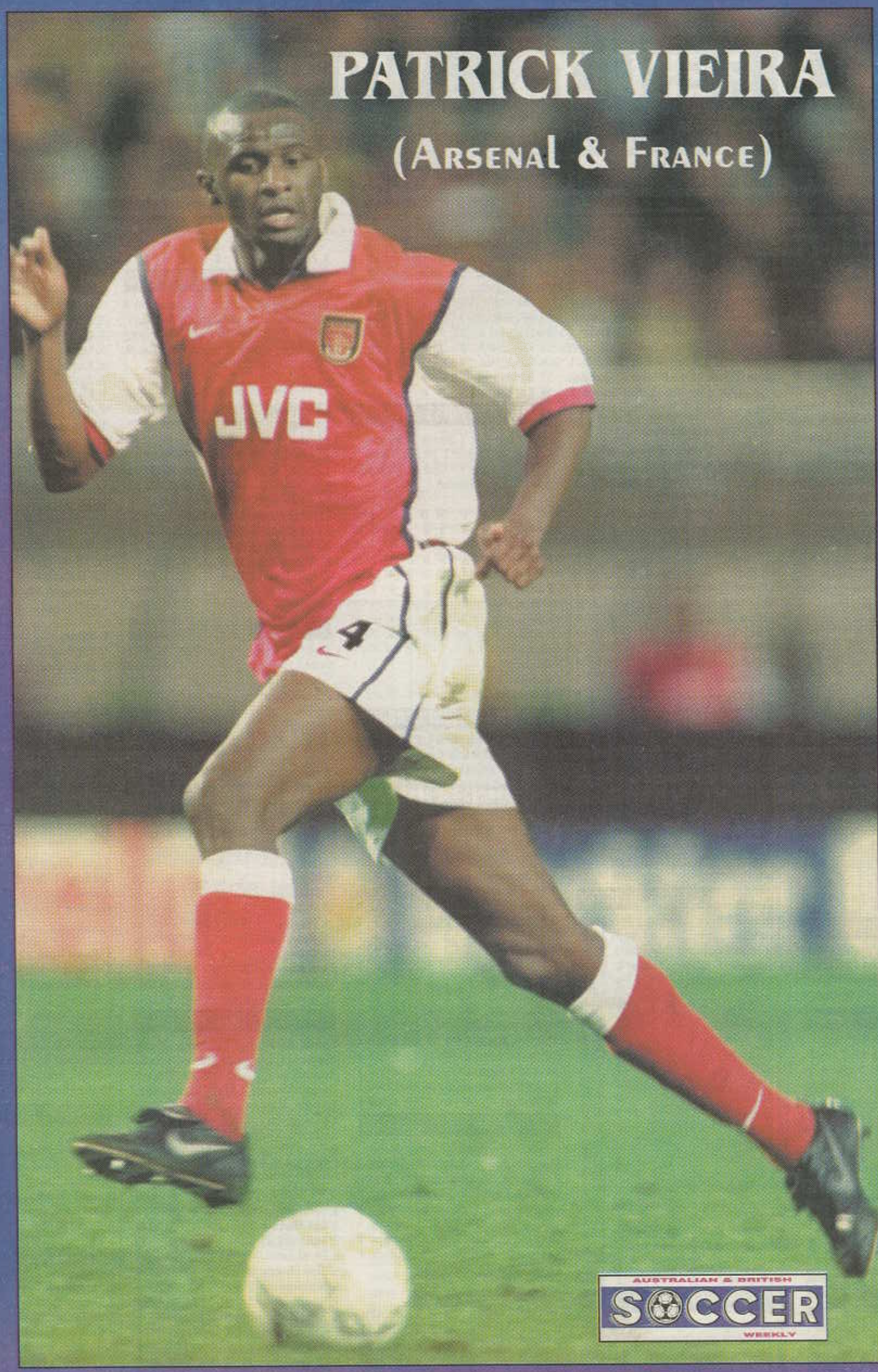
Rapid Vienna 2 Tirol Innsbruck 1, SV Salzburg 1 Sturm Graz 0, Bregenz 1 Austria Vienna 4, Graz AK 5 Admira Moedling 1, LASK Linz 1 Ried 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Rapid Vienna	**9**	**6**	**3**	**0**	**21**	**9**	**21**
2. Austria Vienna	8	5	3	0	19	4	18
3. SV Salzburg	8	4	2	2	9	7	14
4. Sturm Graz	8	4	1	3	15	11	13
5. Tirol I'sbruck	9	3	3	3	15	12	12
6. Ried	9	3	3	3	16	14	12
7. Graz AK	9	3	3	3	14	14	12
8. Bregenz	8	2	2	4	9	16	8
9. LASK Linz	9	1	2	6	7	22	5
10. Ad Moedling	9	0	2	7	8	24	2

SWISS FIRST DIVISION

Basle 2 St Gallen 2, Grasshoppers 0 Lugano 3, Lucerne 2 Lausanne Sports 1, Neuchatel Xamax 1 Aarau 5, Sion 3 FC Zurich 3, Yverdon 2 Servette 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Lugano	8	6	1	1	13	3	19
2. Lausanne Sprt	8	5	0	3	15	11	15
3. St Gallen	8	4	2	2	14	8	14
4. Grasshoppers	8	4	1	3	17	8	13
5. Basle	8	3	2	3	17	14	11
6. Sion	8	3	2	3	8	11	11
7. Aarau	8	3	1	4	10	11	10
8. Lucerne	8	3	1	4	13	8	10
9. Servette	8	2	3	3	12	14	9
10. Yverdon	8	2	2	4	9	13	8
11. FC Zurich	8	1	4	3	11	13	7
12. Neuchatel	8	2	1	5	8	23	7

PATRICK VIEIRA

(ARSENAL & FRANCE)